

Pan Am 747 crashes; 244 aboard

NEW YORK (R) — A Pan American World Airways Jumbo jet with 244 people on board crashed in Scotland Wednesday, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration said. Spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen said the agency confirmed the crash after Scottish air traffic controllers lost radar and radio contact with the airliner. "Pan Am flight 103, which was a 747 with 244 people on board, crashed 10 minutes after takeoff from Heathrow (London's main airport) this afternoon at about 2:23 p.m. (EST) (1923 GMT)," she said. She said the plane crashed near the town of Lockerbie in southwest Scotland. She added that of the 244 people on board, 15 were crew members. Three of the 229 passengers were infants. The Royal Air Force (RAF) rescue coordination centre at Petrie in Scotland said the jet apparently crashed on the small town of Lockerbie, north of Carlisle, about an hour after leaving Heathrow, the Press Association said. An RAF spokesman was quoted as saying it was a "major tragedy." The BBC also said the jet hit a petrol station and quoted eyewitnesses as saying there had been a huge explosion and a 100 metre fireball.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تعريب بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراي.

Israeli coalition pact signed

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Likud bloc and Labour Party approved an agreement for a joint government at separate stormy meetings Wednesday, seven weeks after a disputed national election. Before the new government is installed, the coalition pact must be signed formally by both parties. Israel army radio said the signing could come Thursday. The government announced a special session of parliament Thursday for installation of the new cabinet, which will be nearly identical to the outgoing body. Two of Israel's four religious parties are expected to join the coalition. But they will be secondary to the major parties and will lack the influence they had sought through a narrower coalition with Likud alone. Under the new agreement, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Likud will retain his post for the next four years. Labour leader Shimon Peres, the current foreign minister, will be Shamir's deputy and serve as finance minister in the new cabinet. Moshe Arens, a Likud hard-liner and former defence minister, will replace Peres as foreign minister. Other key portfolios will be retained, including Labour's Yitzhak Rabin as defence minister and Likud's Ariel Sharon as interior minister.

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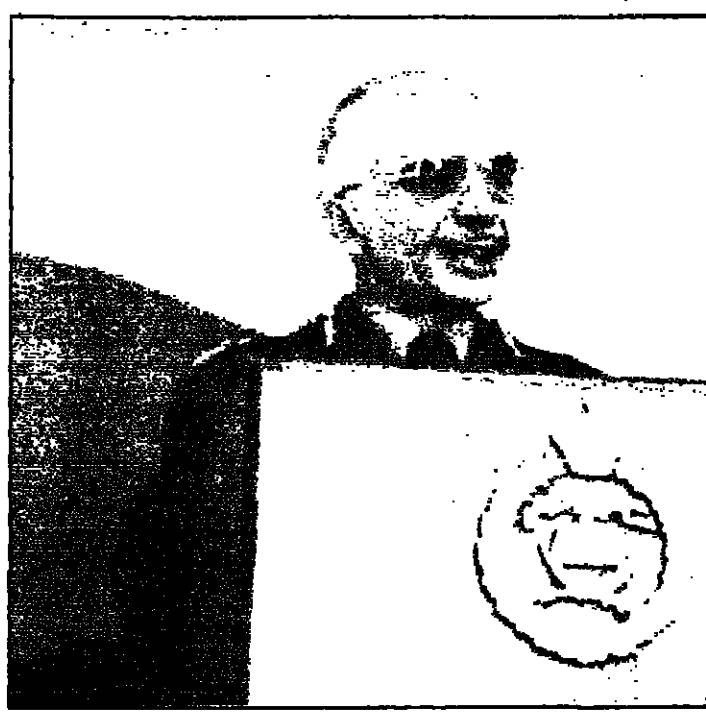
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Prince Hassan urges attention to badia development

AZRAO (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday urged Jordanians to turn their attention to the badia region, which, he said, offers a real opportunity as untapped area awaiting development. The badia (desert regions) can be developed as agricultural area and pasture land which can subsequently absorb additional population, the Crown Prince said at the opening of a two-day seminar on development of the badia region. Jordan's badia region is a natural extension of Saudi Arabia, Syria and Iraq and which should be developed on a regional rather than national basis, Prince Hassan noted. He said the Hammad basin, which is being developed by the four countries as an example of pan Arab efforts, can achieve success and benefit the Arab World as a whole.

"The desert areas of Jordan present a real challenge for our ability to come up with new development techniques to exploit the land and make it habitable," Prince Hassan said. The badia region, he added, constitutes a new axis that can link with the axes of the Jordan Valley and the Eastern Heights to form an integrated unit with integrated development features. The Crown Prince said the private sector should take the initiative and invest in projects for the development of the badia region. "Our badia regions offer us a real chance for serious work in the form of projects like these successful ones executed by the private sector in poultry farming, animal husbandry and the exploitation of table salt," he said.

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HM King Hussein

Uprising leaders seek pressure on U.S.

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip called Wednesday for more pressure on the United States and Israel to meet Palestinian demands for self-determination and statehood. In their latest leaflet, they hailed the U.S. decision to open a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) after a 13-year boycott as a victory for the uprising. "Our prime duty is to escalate the struggle and burn the land under the feet of the invaders and their allies, to impose more restraints on the American and Israeli positions," the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising declared. The leaflet demanded that the United States recognise the recently declared Palestinian state and reopen a PLO information office in Washington, closed a year ago by order of congress.

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King optimistic of peace, urges continued momentum

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday that "signs of a peaceful era" were dawning in the Middle East in the wake of the Iran-Iraq ceasefire and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) new initiative to solve the Palestinian problem.

But the King cautioned that the momentum to settle the eight-year Gulf war and the Arab-Israeli conflict must be maintained or the prospects of genuine peace will recede. "The signs of a peaceful era in our region have started to shine through two wide gates," the King said in a speech at the graduation of army officers. "The first gate is the one of peace and stability in the Gulf area, which was geared by the Iraqi people's brilliant steadfastness and rallying round the Iraqi leadership," the King said in the speech, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra. "The second gate is the Palesti-

nian one which was geared by the Palestinian people's struggle, courageous uprising, sacrifices and concrete steadfastness against the Israeli occupation," the King said. The King explained that the "key signs during this period was the beginning of peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran under United Nations auspices... and the United States' direct dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation." But the King warned that "the present Iran-Iraq peace effort should be maintained in order that it is not altered to a temporary armistice instead of a just and lasting peace." The King called on the international community and all the parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict "to maintain the present peace process in the Middle East so that the Palestinian issue will not be caged in a state of no-war, no-peace... since stability and peace in the Middle East will be for the benefit of all." The King urged the United Nations to "exploit the dynamic process of peace to solve the regional conflicts by peaceful means and to continue its role in constructive mediation between parties in conflict." The King said Israel's leaders should "realise that occupation of other people's lands by force can not go on... and the colonisation of people has no place, except in

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Hamdoun reviews Iraqi positions 'Jordan-Iraq relation an example for Arabs'

By Caroline Farraj
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

RELATIONS between Jordan and Iraq serve as an example for the rest of the Arab World to emulate and the coordination between Amman and Baghdad on the Arab and international scenes is having a major impact on developments, according to a senior Iraqi official. Nizar Hamdoun, under-secretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, says: "The most important indicator of this unique relationship is the close ties between His Majesty King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein." Speaking in a recent interview with the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i in Baghdad, Hamdoun reviewed Iraq's positions on peace talks with Iran, reconciliation with Syria, developments in Lebanon and the Palestinian problem. He expected the peace talks with Iran, which began Aug. 25 but remain stalled over conflicting positions of Iran and Iraq, to take a long time. "Iran is not seeking comprehensive peace," he said. "It is still hoping for a temporary truce. Despite such an Iranian stand, we consider dialogue between the two sides as useful even if they do not produce quick results." He expressed hope that Iran would "soon reach the conviction

that we have in Iraq that there should be a permanent peace in place between the two sides." Hamdoun renewed charges that Iran was the party responsible for the deadlocked exchange of prisoners of war (PoWs). "The exchange ceased suddenly because of Iran's stubbornness," he said. "We hope that the exchange can be resumed soon in light of the suffering of the prisoners." It is estimated that Iran and Iraq hold about 100,000 PoWs between them. Hamdoun called on the Arab and international communities to use their influence with Tehran "to convince Iran of the meaning of and need for a permanent and extensive peace for the sake of both countries and of the world as well."

Elaborating further on his view of the Jordanian-Iraqi relationship, Hamdoun said: "The present and future Arab movement is one of the results of this high-level consultations, coordination and the extensive cordial relationship between Jordan and Iraq on the one side, and between them and the rest of the Arab World on the other." Hamdoun reaffirmed his country's staunch support for the Palestinian cause and said, "Iraq has always tried to emphasise the need for coordination among the

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Moscow wants closer ties with Manila

MANILA (R) — Eduard Shevardnadze, making the first visit by a Soviet foreign minister to the Philippines, said Wednesday he wanted to build on a positive new trend in Moscow's relations with Manila. His Philippine counterpart Raul Manglapus told reporters Manila hoped to develop trade and economic links with Moscow and would discuss fishing rights and possible industrial joint ventures.

Gandhi sees stable Sino-Indian ties

PEKING (R) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said Wednesday his visit to China had laid the foundation for stable Sino-Indian ties and he would carry a message of friendship back to his people. Gandhi capped his visit, the first by an Indian leader in 34 years, by meeting earlier with senior leader Deng Xiaoping who told him the two former foes should forget past differences and look to the future. "We have laid the foundation for peaceful and stable relations," the Indian leader told a news conference at the Great Hall of the People in the heart of Peking.

Palme murder suspect refused release

STOCKHOLM (AP) — A Swedish court Wednesday rejected an appeal for the immediate release of a suspect accused of killing former Prime Minister Olof Palme nearly three years ago. The court ruled that Christer Pettersson, 41, would remain in custody as ordered in an arraignment hearing last Friday.

Sokomanu charged with inciting mutiny

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (AP) — President George Sokomanu was arrested and charged with inciting mutiny Wednesday as this south Pacific nation's political crisis worsened, an Australian news report said. Police took Sokomanu into custody after searching his office and official home. Members of Sokomanu's family said about 20 uniformed and plainclothes officers took the president away at about 8 a.m. Wednesday, the Australian Associated Press reported.

Afghan rebel groups to meet in Iran

ISLAMABAD (R) — Guerrilla groups fighting the Soviet-backed government in Afghanistan will meet in Iran to discuss strategy for a new round of talks with Moscow, a rebel spokesman said Wednesday. He said Burhanuddin Rabbani, current chairman of the Pakistan-based guerrilla alliance, would lead a delegation to meet representatives of the eight rebel groups based in Iran.

Riyadh to extend payments to PLO

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia will pay \$6 million a month to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) when another commitment expires in January, the PLO's Riyadh envoy Rafiq Al Natsha said in a statement Wednesday. The statement said Saudi Arabia had promised to make the new payments to support the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Police find bomb factory in London

LONDON (AP) — Police said they found an arsenal of bomb-making equipment, machine guns and high-grade explosives in a raid Wednesday on an apartment in south London. They said the equipment was similar to that used in bombs by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) in its drive to oust the British from Northern Ireland. Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, said it "cannot be discounted" that some bombs have already been planted, and said two "extremely dangerous" men are being hunted. Police appealed to the public to be vigilant for suspicious objects.

Greek arms industry director arrested

ATHENS (AP) — The former director of the Hellenic arms industry (EBO) was arrested Wednesday after appearing before an investigating magistrate to reply to charges of fraud, forgery and embezzlement totalling millions of dollars. Stamatis Camanis, 54, was jailed and given until Friday to prepare his defence.

Arafat hits Israel over U.S.-PLO talks

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Wednesday accused Israel of undermining the U.S.-PLO dialogue, which he described as "very positive." "Israel is using all available means to undermine the dialogue," Arafat told a news conference after a 24-hour visit to Yugoslavia. "No doubt that the dialogue with the U.S. is very important and we are hoping that in the future it will have constructive results. Its initial results are very positive," Arafat said. Arafat's explicit recognition of Israel and renunciation of "terrorism" in Geneva last week led the United States to open talks with the PLO in Tunisia last Friday for the first time since the U.S. banned PLO contacts 13 years ago. Arafat said that Israel "is using arm-fist policies" and charged it is preparing large-scale retaliation against Palestinians on the occupied territories in the wake of the talks in Tunisia. "It is not by chance that on the day of the dialogue (with the U.S.) the Israelis staged a massacre in Nablus," Arafat said. At least five Arabs were shot and killed by Israeli troops in the West Bank town last Friday. "Yesterday's agreement between Likud and Labour parties (over the formation of a coalition government in Israel) represents an agreement for war and not peace," Arafat said. He said the accord between the two Israeli parties does not provide for an international peace conference on the Middle East, does not recognise independent Palestinian state, and envisages no negotiations with the PLO. "The most dangerous things are (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir's instructions to his army not to be bound by the constraints of military ethics in dealing with the intifada," Arafat said. Israel's two major parties settled their differences Monday in an effort to present a unified front on foreign policy amid mounting international pressure on the Jewish state to open peace talks with the PLO. Arafat's visit to Yugoslavia, one of a series that followed Washington's decision to open the dialogue with the PLO, comes as part of a campaign to seek support for an international Middle East conference under United Nations auspices. His trip follows visits to East Germany, Romania and Austria in the past week. Arafat, speaking in an interview with the Yugoslav newspaper Politika, was asked if he believed a Palestinian state would exist within five years. "If God is willing, it will be within two years," he told the

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Photo on left shows the geographical and magnetic features of the East and West Banks of River Jordan in 1980. The photo on right shows the readjusted masses which match perfectly, evidencing a horizontal northward movement of the East Bank of 107 kilometres in millions of years (NRA photos)

How safe is Jordan from earthquakes?

By Ghadeer Taher
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Vivid scenes of the tragedy and horror caused by the Dec. 7 earthquake in Soviet Armenia have been brought to our living rooms through television, reminding everyone of how the human race can be almost helpless in the face of natural disasters on such a scale. Naturally, as with many across the world who witnessed the aftermath of the total pulverisation of entire towns in Armenia, there are those among us who raise the

question: Can it happen in Jordan? How safe is the region from earthquakes? In fact, no-one can accurately predict when an earthquake is likely in the case of Jordan or anywhere else in the world, says Kaysi Al Kaysi, head of the Natural Resources Authority's (NRA) Department of Seismology and, as such, Jordan's expert on earthquakes. It all depends on the speed and magnitude of geophysical movements, he added in an interview with the Jordan Times. Jordan and the area around it have a history of earthquakes

dating back 4,000 years, Kaysi said, pointing to a large chart displayed prominently in his office. The last major earthquake in the area — in fact the first scientifically recorded geophysical movement in the region — occurred in July 1927. The quake, which measured six on the Richter scale, killed about 300 people and caused heavy damages in Jericho. Since then, slight tremours have occurred in the region, but much lesser in intensity and magnitude, Kaysi said.

The quakes in the region are linked to the "Arabian Plate" which stretches from the southern part of the Arabian peninsula to Turkey through the Dead Sea-Wadi Araba-Jordan Valley region. Ruins in Jerash indicate that the ancient Greco-Roman city was destroyed in an earthquake linked to the movement of the Arabian plate, Kaysi said. "The orientation of the pillars and columns indicate that the city was damaged by an earthquake," he said. "You can easily note that all the columns and pillars have

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Riyadh likely to restore formal ties with Moscow

By Aly Mahmoud
The Associated Press

BAHRAIN — Recent meetings between Soviet envoys and Saudi Arabian leaders have touched off speculation that the two countries are heading towards restoring diplomatic relations after an often frosty 50-year break.

Officials in Saudi Arabia will not openly discuss Riyadh's intentions.

But a Dec. 5 meeting between Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov and King Fahd was the highest-level contact between the two countries since Moscow severed relations with Riyadh in 1938.

The meeting climaxed two years of assiduous courting of Saudi Arabia by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev amid a determined diplomatic drive by the Kremlin to expand its influence in the Gulf.

Resuming relations with Saudi Arabia, the non-communist world's largest oil exporter, would be a major triumph for Gorbachev and crown the gains he has already made in the strategic region.

Before meeting Fahd, Vorontsov had attended Saudi-sponsored peace talks with Afghan rebels in the mountain resort of Taif. Saudi leaders have insisted that resuming diplomatic ties hinge largely on the Soviets withdrawing from Afghanistan.

Knowledgeable sources in Riyadh said the Soviets agreed to

meet the Afghan Mujahideen rebels in Taif mainly to please the Saudis, who have been one of the guerrillas' main supporters.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted Vorontsov as assuring Fahd that "the Soviet Union is determined to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan at the time already fixed or perhaps earlier."

"If the withdrawal is completed in February, it seems they're likely to resume relations," said a Western diplomat, who insisted on anonymity.

Speculations

Other Western and Arab diplomats believe the Saudis are more likely to establish diplomatic ties with China, which has sold Riyadh intermediate-range ballistic missiles, before they resume relations with Moscow.

U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci, who recently paid a farewell visit to Saudi Arabia, reportedly asked Fahd if the Taif meetings meant relations with Moscow were in the offing and was told the two issues were not related.

But the thaw in Saudi-Soviet relations is widely seen as a signal that it is only a matter of time before Moscow and Riyadh exchange ambassadors.

"It's now a question of the right price. China may have paid with the missiles and with the Soviets it might well be a complete withdrawal from Afghanistan," said one Arab diplomat, speaking on condition of

anonymity.

Prince Salman, Fahd's brother and governor of Riyadh, noted: "The Saudi-Soviet dialogue has never been suspended, despite the rupture in diplomatic ties between the countries."

Kuwait's Al Anbaa daily Monday quoted Ernest Zverev, the Soviet ambassador to the country, as saying in an interview that efforts are under way "to normalise relations" with Riyadh.

"So far we haven't received an official gesture from Saudi Arabia concerning diplomatic representation," he said.

But he noted: "We're ready to exchange ambassadors if Saudi Arabia expresses such a desire."

The Soviet Union was the first country to recognise Saudi Arabia, then known as the kingdom of the Hijaz, in 1926. But Josef Stalin suddenly severed relations 12 years later.

For more than four decades, theocratic Saudi Arabia spurned communism and shunned diplomatic ties with the communist bloc.

Six years ago, as the Saudis developed a more robust foreign policy, contacts resumed over the Palestinian problem and later over the Iran-Iraq war, when the Saudis were pressing for an arms embargo against Tehran to force it to accept a ceasefire.

Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal visited Moscow in 1982 and again this year. Oil Minister Hisham Nazer also visited Moscow this year and Soviets are now

major purchasers of Saudi wheat.

The Soviet undersecretary for Middle East affairs, Vladimir Polyakov, held "cooperation talks" with senior Saudis in Riyadh in February and Arab diplomats said Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will visit the Saudi capital next month.

The Gulf Arabs were heartened by U.S. naval intervention in the Gulf to protect shipping during the Iran-Iraq war.

While the United States remains a major arms supplier for the Gulf states, congressional blockade of advanced weapons sales has forced them to look to the Soviets, French and British for new weapons.

Kuwait opened diplomatic ties with Moscow as long ago as 1960. Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar did so more recently.

These states have also established relations with Peking. Only Saudi Arabia and Bahrain have not done so.

Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman indicated in an interview in Kuwait's Al Siyassah newspaper that his country was also moving towards diplomatic ties with Moscow.

He said Bahrain has agreed to host an East Bloc trade fair with sizeable Soviet participation next year.

"This gesture is designed as a prelude for another move we are now working on," Sheikh Khalifa said. "The Soviet Union is a superpower whose role cannot be ignored."

U.S.-PLO contacts began in March

By John Rice
The Associated Press

TUNIS — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Tuesday that indirect contacts with the U.S. government aimed at opening a formal dialogue began early this year.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, said the U.S. government in March relayed a set of conditions for the PLO to meet before the U.S. would open formal talks, ending a 13-year boycott. The U.S. traded counterproposals with the organisation for several months, he said.

The proposals seemed to be a prelude to the intense diplomatic manoeuvring through Swedish intermediaries that led to the PLO meeting American conditions last week and to the first talks with the organisation.

Abed Rabbo took part in the first of meeting Friday with U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau.

Abed Rabbo said the messages, relayed through Americans of Palestinian heritage, followed the failure by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to find any notable Palestinians to speak with during a visit to Arab Jerusalem early this year.

"They gave signals that the American administration, after Shultz had failed to find an alternative to the PLO... was thinking in a new way... to deal with the PLO directly," he said.

He said the U.S. terms included unconditional acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which lay the groundwork of a possible peace settlement. The terms also included acceptance of direct negotiations with Israel and the right of Israel to live within recognised boundaries.

But Abed Rabbo indicated the PLO balked at accepting Israel or the two resolutions without linking them to a Palestinian right to statehood.

He also indicated the PLO questioned what Israeli borders it was supposed to accept.

Abed Rabbo said there was "one main text" offered by the U.S. in March, "and there were counter drafts two or three times," relayed through the Palestinian-Americans. He would not give their names.

But, he said, the PLO "did not feel (U.S.) seriousness at that time... they know how to transmit these ideas to us in a more official way."

The way for a new PLO position was formulated at the policy-setting Palestine National Council (PNC) session in Algiers in September.

Lebanon urges return of Red Cross

BEIRUT (R) — The leaders of Lebanon's two rival governments both asked the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Wednesday to change its mind about suspending relief work in Lebanon and pulling out its staff.

Eleven ICRC staff flew to Switzerland from Cyprus the same day after the organisation ordered them Tuesday to quit Lebanon, saying their lives were in danger.

Official sources in Beirut said acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss and army commander General Michel Aoun, who heads a competing military government, asked the country's ambassador to international organisations Selim Nafah, to contact ICRC officials in Geneva.

"Both, in separate letters, asked him to get in touch with ICRC officials to get an explanation for the suspension of operations in Lebanon and urge them to go back on their decision," one official source said.

The Lebanese Red Cross said the country, devastated by 13 years of civil war, would suffer from the ICRC pullout.

"We were shocked by the news. The Red Cross and Lebanon will suffer a great deal and will face a very difficult period. We will face problems in providing relief services," Red Cross

spokeswoman Mariyeh Ezzeddine told Reuters.

She said the ICRC provided finances for her organisation and "gave us big support in times of conflict because they were seen by the warring factions as neutral and could talk to all militias."

"We hope this will only be a temporary need of the help of the ICRC, maybe more than any other country in the world," she added.

One Lebanese official said the pullout was apparently prompted by fresh threats against members of humanitarian organisations, which defied risks and dangers throughout the war to help assist needy people.

"Kidnappers and killers no longer spare officials of charity and humanitarian organisations and they accuse them of being spies," he said.

ICRC headquarters in Geneva said Tuesday it had decided to suspend operations in Lebanon, the first such step in the body's 125-year history, because of threats against its staff whose lives were in acute danger.

It would not disclose the nature or source of the threats. But spokesman Carlos Bauert said in Switzerland staff would return when the ICRC had "credible assurances that it is safe for us to do so."

King optimistic of Mideast peace

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history books." He said: "Israel's stubborn practices will bring pain and suffering to the occupier and the people under occupation."

"We shall continue to cooperate and coordinate with all sister Arab states, including the PLO which carries out its historical tasks efficiently," the King said.

"We shall continue dialogue with all effective international powers to hold a Middle East peace conference and Jordan... will be a genuine Arab front, honest to its principles," the King said.

The King said the international community and the U.N. should build on the constructive position adopted by the PLO as reflected in PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's speech to the special U.N. session on Palestine in Geneva earlier this month. The King noted that the PLO position had received the full appreciation and

applause of the entire international community except Israel.

The King criticised Israel's stubborn position and said its leaders should probe into the nature of the Palestinian uprising, which entered its second year this month. "It is high time for Israel to realise that those involved in the uprising — be they male, female or children — not only represent 70 per cent of the population but also embody the spirit of continued resistance," the King said. "The uprising represents a river of wrath that seeks to achieve stability and tranquility and in a lake of justice, freedom and peace but is not a marsh that can will dry up," the King said.

The Palestinian uprising has contributed to putting the Palestine question in its right path, King Hussein said. The Algiers Arab summit resolutions on the Palestine question and Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative relations with the occupied West Bank to highlight the Palestinian identity, the Palestine National Council (PNC) resolutions that reflected the aspirations of the Palestinian people and Arafat's clear cut clarifications that followed the U.N. session were all links in a series that led to the acceptance of the U.S. to open a dialogue with the PLO, thus heralding a new era of work towards finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question, the King said.

At Wednesday's graduation ceremony, held at the Royal Command and Staff Academy, King Hussein distributed diplomas to the graduates and awards to officers excelling in their performance and training courses.

The ceremony was attended by senior government officials and high-ranking army officers as well as head of diplomatic missions in Jordan.

Badia development seminar opens

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Prince Hassan called on the meeting to come out with a new concept for developing the badia region in relations with the other regions of Jordan.

In a speech earlier this month, Prince Hassan said the desert lands of Jordan, estimated at nearly 70 per cent of the Kingdom's area, serve as a common denominator shared by all governments and await serious development work on the part of the public and private sectors.

At the outset of Wednesday's meeting, Planning Minister Taher Kanaan outlined the importance of the badia region of Jordan at the national and regional levels and called for investment projects to be carried in this area to create jobs and to attract more inhabitants.

The desert regions of the Arab countries of Asia can be exploited through tourist and infrastructure projects, the minister said.

Kanaan spoke in detail about the natural resources of the badia region.

Successive governments have carried out infrastructure projects in the badia region, building 300 kilometres of roads, providing 93 per cent of the area's inhabitants with electricity and 99 per cent of the population with water supplies, Kanaan said.

The minister also referred to

projects for the exploitation of cement, phosphate and oil shale and ongoing feasibility studies for the extraction of natural gas and petroleum.

Following the opening session, subcommittees of the seminar embarked on discussing working papers dealing with projects related to infrastructure, agriculture, housing and the exploitation of mineral resources.

Arafat hits Israel over dialogue

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Arafat said the PLO was working on the creation of a provisional government-in-exile.

He said Tunisia had offered the PLO a base for the government-in-exile but told the Politika: "The state will be formed on occupied Palestinian territories."

Arafat told the news conference in Belgrade that 88 countries had now recognised the state and

Yugoslavia was among the first five to do so.

In Rome, Premier Ciriaco de Mita's office announced Wednesday that Arafat would meet de Mita and the Italian foreign minister Wednesday.

Italy will be the first NATO member country on Arafat's current European swing.

Italian President Francesco Cossiga appealed to Israel Wednesday not to miss what he called an historic opportunity.

How safe is Jordan from quakes?

(Continued from page 1)

fallen in the same direction."

Similarity with California

"From a geological point of view, the situation in Jordan is very similar to that in California," Kaysi said. "Just as the San Andreas fault is moving and causes frequent quakes in California, the Arabian Plate is also moving and causing quakes."

The marked difference, he said, lies in the speeds of the two geophysical movements. "The San Andreas fault's horizontal movement is at least 10 times speedier than that of the Arabian Plate and therefore their respective effects also are so much proportionate," he noted.

Kaysi said an airborne magnetic survey conducted in 1980 indicated that the East Bank of the Jordan River had moved about 107 kilometres horizontally northwards from the West Bank over a period of "millions of years" as a result of the Arabian Plate's movement.

Producing airborne colour photographs of the region taken in the 1980 survey, Kaysi pointed out that the patches of colours in the first photo, representing the actual geographical and magnetic features, do not match when compared to the portions of the two banks of the river which currently lie directly opposite each other. "But, if you realign the two banks — reflecting a drift of the geological and magnetic features to the north — the colours of their features match perfectly," he pointed out. Interpreted into cartographical terms, the movement equals 107 kilometres, he added.

The NRA, which started monitoring geophysical movements in the region in September 1983, have registered quakes along the Arabian Plate within a north-south "transition" zone of about 50 kilometres on both sides. The department's statistics show that 250 local quakes were registered during the period from September 1983 to December 1987, among them six which were classified as "felt" with local magnitudes ranging from 5.2 to 4.05. The term "local magnitude" is a scale drawn up by the NRA in conformity with the region's features and the readings are the same as the Richter scale, the internationally used measurement for quakes.

'Armenian link'

According to Mohammad Jreidat also of the NRA's Seismological Department, the Dec. 7 earthquake in Armenia could have been linked to the Arabian Plate, whose northern end reaches into the Turkish mountains on the Turkish-Soviet border, adjoining the "Euro-Asian Plate." But the effects of the quake did not spill over onto the Arabian Plate because "a sub-section of the Arabian Plate does not fit into the pattern and separates the Arabian Plate from the Euro-Asian Plate," Jreidat explained.

The NRA received a request from the U.S. Geographic Service for Jordan's observations of the Armenian quake. Kaysi said, explaining that such exchanges of information were part of the functions of seismological observers around the

world.

The seismological department now operates eight monitoring stations scattered around the Kingdom. Signals from these stations are transmitted to and picked up by the central observatory attached to the NRA headquarters in Wadi Seer and automatically entered into computers on a round-the-clock basis, Kaysi said.

Expansion of the operations to 30 stations and more advanced equipment is almost complete, Kaysi said. "The stations are already built and we are waiting for the equipment to arrive," he said. All the 30 units will be operational by the end of next year, he said. The expansion is being carried out in conjunction with the U.S. Geographic Service.

The last "felt" earthquake in Jordan occurred on Oct. 18, 1987, in the Aqaba-Jabal Mabaraka area and registered 4.9 local magnitude. According to NRA findings, epicentres of quakes in the region are generally concentrated along earth faults linked to the Jordan Valley-Dead Sea rift such as the Nabulus area, Swaga, Zarqa Ma'in and Lake Tiberias.

Technical jargon and scientific information apart, are there any indications that a major earthquake could occur in Jordan in the near future? The net picture that emerges is simple: it is difficult to say. An earthquake could occur in the region tomorrow, or not for the next 50 years.

Uprising leaders urge pressure on U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

confrontation and the 343rd Palestinian to die in the uprising.

The statement issued by Michel Sabbah, the Roman Catholic bishop of Jerusalem, called for "a novena" of prayer and fasting.

His Christmas statement spoke of "prisons full of suffering men, lack of peace and the entrenchment of violence and hatred."

In a reference to the occupied West Bank, Sabbah noted that the problems were occurring in the area where Christ was born and urged Catholics "to accompany these sufferings with our prayers and to focus our attention on the current situation and the political problem itself."

It was the strongest public statement on the uprising by Sabbah, who was appointed by Pope John Paul II last December as the first Arab patriarch of Jerusalem.

In an interview with the Catholic Register, a weekly religious paper published in Toronto, Sabbah endorsed the establishment of a Palestinian state in the occupied territories.

"Iraq's stand towards the situation in Lebanon is clear," he said. "We oppose any foreign interference in Lebanon's affairs. The Arabs must find the proper solution to the problem. This must be determined in Tunis when the Arab representatives to the Arab League meet there Dec. 28."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE	05:05	Fair
15:30	Koran	
15:50	Programme review	
16:00	Children programmes	
17:15	Local programme	
17:30	Programme on Jordan	
18:00	News summary	
18:05	World Reports	
18:20	Local programme	
18:30	"Alpha"	
19:15	Health programme	
19:40	Programme review	
20:00	News in Arabic	
20:30	Programme on the Press	
20:45	Local series	
21:45	Programme review	
21:55	Programme on Islamic art	
22:40	Arabic play	
23:00	News summary in Arabic	
23:10	Play (cont.)	

PROGRAMME TWO	18:00	Des chiffres et de lettres
18:30	Adventures voyages	
19:00	News in French	
19:15	French varieties	
19:30	News in Hebrew	
19:45	Varieties	
20:00	News in Arabic	
20:30	Bill Cosby Show	
21:10	Beauty and the Beast	
22:00	News in English	

PRAYER TIMES

05:05	Fair
06:27	(Sunrise) Duha
11:34	Dhuhr
14:18	'Asr
16:41	Maghrib
18:04	Isha

CHURCHES	Assemblies of God Church, Tel.	632785
	St. Joseph Church Tel.	624590
	Church of the Annunciation Tel.	637440
	De la Salle Church Tel.	661757
	Terrazanta Church Tel.	622366
	Church of the Annunciation Tel.	623541
	Anglican Church Tel.	625383
	Armenian Catholic Church Tel.	71331
	Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.	712561
	St. Ephraim Church Tel.	717151
	Armenian International Church Tel.	685326
	Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.	811295
	Rainbow Congregation Tel.	823605
	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-	

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
There will be a chance for frost formation in the early morning and an increase in temperature will occur during the day with the appearance of medium clouds. Winds will be southerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min. max. temp.	
Amman	5 / 13
Aqaba	9 / 21
Deserts	2 / 15
Jordan Valley	6 / 20

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 47 per cent, Aqaba 18 per cent.	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Yasser Haddad	(—)
Dr. Saeed Abu Hatab	638642

Dr. Ibrahim Abu Hamd	677436
Dr. Ali Al Zamil	680818
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Nairokhi pharmacy	626672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	664945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637661

EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Directorate	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	109
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	198, 891228
Blood Bank	776293
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	639141
Public Security Directorate	626001 / 685111
Price Complaints	605890
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	874467

AMMAN MUNICIPALITY	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	12
(directory assistance)	
Overseas Calls	621101
Central Amman Telephone	621101
Repairs	621101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	621101
Jordan Television	731111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	690100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	648411, 636381
RJ Flight Information	06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	06-52000

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/2
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642462
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	641714
Shmeisani Hospital	669151
University Hospital	643945
Al-Muasher Hospital	667273
The Islamic, Abdali	6612737
Al-Ah, Abdali	641446
Al-Muhajira	771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	7751126

Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	662240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983322
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)696732
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)272555
Gregg Catholic Hospital	(02)127575
Al Na'afes Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in quads per kg.

Apple	507 / 400
Banana	350 / 300
Banana (Mukammal)	300 / 250
Beans	400 / 350
Cobbs	430 / 390

Ministry warns public against pesticides

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture Wednesday warned the public that pesticides used by ground and air teams to combat desert locusts are very dangerous and gave instructions about precautions that should be taken concerning clothing and food used by people involved in fighting the pests.

"There are poisonous pesticides that affect people and others which are not so dangerous unless they reach the digestive system," according to instructions which were also distributed by the ministry to different organisations and the public.

The ministry instructed teams involved in the fight against the locusts to cover their hands and bodies, to refrain from eating or smoking during their work and never mix pesticide material with bare hands.

It also cautioned against keeping drinking water and food uncovered or close to areas where pesticides are stored, and said that the hand and body should be thoroughly cleaned and washed after the use of pesticides.

The instructions were issued in view of the presence of locusts in some parts of the Kingdom and the possible involvement of different public sectors in the fight against the dangerous pests.

The Ministry of Agriculture Tuesday reported the discovery of new pockets of desert locusts in south eastern regions, and reported that large swarms of locusts were reported to have invaded Tabukh and other Saudi regions close to Jordanian border.

Ministry Secretary General Salem Al Lawzi said teams were continuing the fight against the insects with all available means.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday arrives at the Hashemite Plaza, downtown Amman, for the inauguration of the new extension (Petra photo)

Queen Noor inaugurates Hashemite Plaza extension and Al Shura Park

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday inaugurated an extension to the Hashemite Plaza, downtown Amman, and Al Shura Park at Jabal Nazzal and later honoured 47 citizens for their outstanding activities during Parks Day on Nov. 12.

The 12 dunum extension to the Hashemite Plaza contains flower gardens, 14 souvenir shops to sell

products to tourists and a restaurant for offering Jordanian national foods.

Al Shura Park at Jabal Nazzal has been set up on 15.5 dunums of land provided by the Greater Amman Municipality and includes an open-air theatre, multi-purpose hall and a children's playground.

Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh delivered a

speech at the ceremonies paying tribute to Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor for their continued support for the municipal council's endeavours to improve and modernise the capital.

The 47 citizens honoured at the ceremony were presented with awards and certificates of merit in appreciation of their efforts.

Jordan, Egypt discuss preparation for holding higher committee talks

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt Nabih Al Nimer Wednesday discussed with Egyptian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Yusef Mustapha preparations for holding the joint Jordanian-Egyptian

Higher Committee meeting in the second half of the coming month.

The meeting, to be held in Cairo, will be co-chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries.

Nimer and Mustapha reviewed joint projects being carried out by the Jordanian-Egyptian Holding

Company, and schemes to be tackled by the coming meeting, such as those to be carried out in the field of land transport. They also discussed the projected Egyptian industrial fair which will be held in Amman in the first half of 1989 following a Jordanian industrial fair that was held in Cairo earlier this month.

Jordan, Egypt and Iraq to form nucleus for airline federation

AMMAN (Petra) — The national airlines of Jordan, Egypt and Iraq agreed Wednesday to work together and form a nucleus for a joint pan-Arab airline federation.

Agreement was reached at a meeting attended by heads of Royal Jordanian (RJ), Iraqi Airways and Egypt Air, who decided to hold another meeting in Baghdad by the middle of the coming month to lay down the ground-work for such a federation.

Iraqi Airways Director General Nouredin Safi told a press conference in Amman that technical and commercial committees have been set up by the three airlines to conduct a feasibility study on the project and report on their findings before the next steps can be taken.

"It has become more important now, than at any time in the past, to think of this federation which can merge the airlines of the Arab countries to work as one unit capable of competing with European airlines which will merge into one airline in 1992," Safi said.

In a press conference Tuesday Royal Jordanian Chairman and

Chief Executive Officer Ali Ghandour called for "coordination and integration" among Arab airlines in the East Mediterranean region, in order to counter the challenge of Europe's integrated carriers in 1992.

"We are hopeful that by next year our dreams of reaching Arab integration in the aviation field will become a reality," Ghandour said. "The 1992 wind of change is already blowing and it is very challenging for us."

Whereas calls for integration in the past had been "no more than slogans," the situation has now changed and competition was so tough that those who did not believe in integration would be "left out," Ghandour said.

Jordan on its own, and with its "limited capabilities," could not face up to the challenge of a unified Europe in the aviation field, he added.

Safi said if the Arab airlines fail to think seriously about such a



Iraqi Airways Director General Nouredin Safi speaks to the press Wednesday (Petra photo)

federation. "They will be facing total ruin."

"Once such federation has materialised, the Arabs can maintain air transport capabilities despite outside challenges," Safi said.

He said that Iraqi Airways and RJ were maintaining very strong cooperation which will continue and pave the way for the birth of the new federation.

Safi reviewed the development of the Iraqi Airways since their establishment in 1946 and said it now owns 14 aircraft of the Boeing generation but that plans have been laid down for modernisation of the fleet in cooperation with other airlines.

Iraqi Airways, he added, plans to transport 40,000 tonnes of goods aboard its planes in the coming year up from 26,000 in 1988.

Jordanian, Italian universities sign pact on cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan and the University of Trieste in Italy Wednesday signed an agreement on cooperation in cultural, educational and scientific fields.

Under the terms of the agreement, signed by the presidents of the two universities, the two sides will exchange expertise, information and publications dealing with cultural, educational and scientific matters, and the two institutes will bolster relations between their teaching staff who will be exchanging visits.

In the past summer, the Faculty of Agriculture in the University of Jordan signed an agreement with the Faculty of Agriculture in the University of Trieste to conduct joint research projects on combating desertification; exploiting surface water areas and stemming soil erosion.

Cabinet urges all departments, institutions to control spending

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Wednesday issued a circular to all government departments and public institutions in which it reaffirmed the need to implement recent economic measures taken by the government to control spending and improve the Kingdom's balance of trade.

The council, which met under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Thouqan Hindawi, said that to achieve this goal, all departments should heed the following:

- 1- A ban on the importation of all commodities contained in the government's decisions declared on Nov. 5, 1988 regardless of the source of finance for such commodities even if they were coming in the form of gifts or donations.
- 2- All purchases for government departments should be of locally manufactured products for which all customs fees must have been paid.
- 3- A halt of all purchases of furniture and vehicles regardless

of the source of financing of such purchases, and prior approval from the Council of Ministers should be secured for the purchase of equipment worth JD 50,000 and above.

The circular excluded contracts concluded by the government with local contractors provided that they must have opened letters of credit for imported materials before Nov. 6, as well as items exempted from the measures by the minister of finance.

The council's circular said that equipment used by contractors to

carry out development projects can be brought into the country on a temporary basis if their cost exceeds JD 500,000 and these include bulldozers, stone crushers, cement mixers, dumpers and cranes.

The circular made it clear that the following will not be exempted from customs fees: Auto spare parts, batteries, equipment, machinery, mineral oil, grease, cement, iron, aluminium, paint, pre-fabricated homes, caravans, hangars, laboratory material and furniture.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DECLARATION: The Foreign Ministry has received a memorandum from the Jordanian embassy in Cairo requesting all Jordanians leaving for Egypt to fill in foreign currency declaration forms so as to be able to take out the money left with them at the end of their visit. The memorandum said that the Egyptian authorities do not allow any visitor to bring in or take out more than twenty Egyptian pounds. The memorandum also called on those visiting Egypt to abide by these instructions so as to avoid the confiscation of money exceeding the allowed limits. (Petra)

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ART EXHIBITION: Under the patronage of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Royal Jordanian Ali Ghandour, an exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Farouk Lambaz will be opened on Dec. 12, at the Alia Art Gallery. The exhibition will run through Jan. 5.

ARBOR DAY: The North Ghor district celebrations committee has set Jan. 15 to be the day marking the district's celebrations of Arbor Day. A special programme has been prepared to cover this event. It includes a rally and planting of trees. (Petra)

3 VILLAGES GET ELECTRICITY: The Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPCO) Wednesday concluded a project to supply electric current to the villages of Um Al Rasas, Al Jamil, Al Rama, and Salibiya in the Madaba district. JEPCO sources said that the electric current will be supplied to the villages of Al Orayat Mkawer and Al Dair at the cost of JD 393,000 early next year. JEPCO is currently supplying electricity to the Manshiyat Ma'in at the cost of JD 99,000. Meanwhile the electrification project of Daba'ah village in the Tafleh Governorate was inaugurated Wednesday. It cost JD 12,000. (Petra)

OVERTIME ALLOWANCES: The Cabinet Wednesday endorsed a number of rules dealing with overtime allowances in accordance with the proposals the ministerial committee had submitted in this regard. (Petra)

QASEM TO ATTEND LEAGUE TALKS: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem will lead the Jordanian delegation to the Arab League extraordinary session due to convene in Tunis on Jan. 3, to discuss the Lebanese crisis. Qasem will also lead the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the committee stemming from the Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers' Council due to convene in Cyprus on Jan. 13. (Petra)

CIVIL DEFENCE: Social Development Minister Fawwaz Touqan Wednesday chaired a meeting at the Civil Defence Department, during which the conferees discussed matters related to setting up a comprehensive rescue and housing plan in the wake of the occurrence of natural disasters. The requirements for this plan will be crystallised in the next meeting due to be held next Tuesday. (Petra)

ANTI-LOCUST EFFORT: The Agriculture Ministry Wednesday received a donation of \$250,000 from the Jeddah-based Islamic Bank for Development in contribution to the purchase of desert vehicles so as to reinforce the work of the Jordanian teams combating locusts. In another development, the agriculture department in Ramtha district Wednesday held a seminar on combatting desert locusts. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Friends of Plastic Art in Gulf countries at the National Gallery.
- ★ The youth's art exhibition which displays 101 paintings showing the different aspects of social life in Jordan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Jordanian fine arts exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Farouk Lambaz at Alia Art Gallery — 5:30 p.m.

BAZAAR

- ★ The Balqa Governorate's Jordan Women's Federation displays handicrafts, flower arrangements and embroideries at the Salt Society College.

FILMS

- ★ A French children's film entitled "Le Secret des Selenites" (The Secrets of the Moon) at the French Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.
- ★ A feature film entitled "On the Water Front" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

PSD's criminal lab gets new equipment

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department announced Wednesday the installation of a gas chromatograph and a mass spectrometer at its criminal laboratory to help promote the work of investigators into crime cases.

It said the new and the most modern equipment have been provided as a gift to the department by the West German government as part of Bonn's technical assistance programme to Jordan.

A department spokesman said that a specialist from the German firm which manufactured the equipment, estimated at \$250,000, installed the device and trained Jordanian police officers and technicians in their use.

JUST seminar begins talks on intensive nursing

RAMTHA (Petra) — A seminar was held at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) to discuss intensive nursing care at hospitals.

Deputising for Health Minister Zuhair Malhas, the dean of the JUST's Faculty of Medicine delivered a speech in which he stressed that the Health Ministry was keen on strengthening cooperation and coordination between Health Ministry departments and various educational institutions, with a view to promoting health services for the public.

He said the Ministry of Health realises the importance of the

nursing profession and is determined to seek all possible means to raise its standards and the efficiency and skill of the nurses employed in Jordan.

The Health Ministry has established nursing colleges around the country and has opened a nurse instructors institute in the course of a drive to advance the profession, and update the performance of nurses, the faculty chief said.

JUST President Kamel Ajlouni and faculty deans, as well as senior officials from the Ministry of Health and the Royal Medical Services were present at the seminar.

Jordan, Oman review health ties

MUSCAT (Petra) — Jordan's Ambassador to Oman Samir Timoud met here Wednesday with Dr. Mubarak Ibn Saleh Al Hadouri, the Omani minister of health, and discussed cooperation between the two countries in health affairs.

Dr. Hadouri paid tribute to Jordan's advanced medical institution and noted that a large number of Omanis get their medical treatment at Al Hussein Medical Centre.

The minister told the ambassador that he was looking forward to a visit to Jordan.

abu shakra

Bayader Wadi Al Seer, Tel: 817419
Al Burj Building - Jabal Amman, Tel: 659030
Housing Bank Centre, Tel: 606130

Announce to all customers of fine taste
On the occasion of Christmas and the New Year

That its stores will be open throughout the week including Friday Dec. 23 and until Dec. 30, 1988 from nine a.m. until 9 p.m.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

CHRISTMAS EVE

SATURDAY 24th of December 1988

Andalusia Restaurant

Special Candle Light Dinner
JD 15.000 per person

Coffee Shop

Try our Christmas Eve Buffet Dinner
Price: JD 7.000 per person

XXI Nights Club

DINE AND DANCE WITH LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
JD 12.500 per person including Dinner

CHRISTMAS DAY

SUNDAY 25th of December 1988

Ball Room / Coffee Shop

Traditional CHRISTMAS BUFFET LUNCH With Santa Claus giving presents to children. RAINBOW TRIO will join in for entertainment.

Price: JD 7.000 for adults
JD 3.500 for children

MONDAY 26th UNTIL 30th

DECEMBER 1988

Mon. Dec. 26 PRIME RIB NIGHT — Coffee Shop
Tue. Dec. 27 SHRIMP NIGHT — Andalusia
Wed. Dec. 28 SPANISH PAELLA NIGHT — Coffee Shop
Thur. Dec. 29 SEAFOOD — Andalusia
Fri. Dec. 30 BUFFET LUNCH — Coffee Shop

NEW YEARS EVE

SATURDAY 31st December 1988

Andalusia Restaurant

Start your New Year's Eve with a CHAMPAGNE DINNER
Entertainment by the RAINBOW TRIO
Price: JD 25.000 per person

Grand Ball Room

New Year's Dinner Dance Party

Featuring the Lebanese Singer ODENEES AKEL and Show
Price per person JD 30.000
Inclusive of Gov. Tax and Service Charge

ACCOMMODATION

New Year's Special Package at JD 13.000 per person Sharing a twin.
Inclusive breakfast Buffet and accommodation

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&

AMMAN PLAZA

Wish You a Merry Season and a Happy New Year

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation, established 1975

جوردان تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Strange bedfellows

EVERYBODY knows that the Israeli Likud and Labour parties are strange bedfellows in any circumstance. The Israelis know this, the Arabs are familiar with this and the international community has taken due notice of this. Yet after weeks of prolonged wheelings and dealings between the two principal parties in the Israeli body politic, the two parties voted in favour of forming a "national unity" government. And they did so not with a positive platform but rather on a negative one, to wit, to prevent the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and prevent withdrawal to the 1967 armistice lines and avoid negotiation with the PLO. Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, on the other hand, having vied for the portfolio of defence and lost has described the love-hate relationship between the Likud and Labour as contributing to an indecisive arrangement that could lead ultimately to the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Whoever is right, there is one thing that is clear: The so-called national unity government in Israel, which laboured for many agonising years prior to the November election, was anything but a workable government. In fact both parties sought the national election as the watershed that will decisively and effectively determine the future course of Israeli politics with regard to the war and peace issues in the Middle East. What emerged from the election however was a devastating stalemate and in the end the anticipated national unity government turned out to be a stillborn political creature. What makes the leadership of the two respective parties think that the future of the newly formed coalition government would be any different is indeed puzzling. With the kind of hedge-podge negative commonality of objectives that ensued from the final hours of bargaining between them there could be no promise that the fate of the new model of national unity government would be any different from that of the last one. There is but one explanation for this kind of negative accommodations arrived at between the two parties: The leaders of the two parties are more concerned about power pure and simple and the preservation of their clout and influence on the course of Israeli politics. Both leaders — Shamir and Peres — are aging politicians and their thoughts and perspectives are equally aging. By all accounts, the newly formed coalition government will not last long. This could be good news for the process of peace because it could afford the Israeli voters yet another opportunity to exercise, by ballot, their judgment on the most recent Arab overtures for durable and lasting peace in the Middle East.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Wednesday tackled the Gulf Cooperation Council meeting in Bahrain and said that the meeting is the first since the end of the Gulf conflict which had affected all countries in the Gulf. The deliberations at the Manama meeting are bound to cover the situation in the Gulf following the start of the talks between Iran and Iraq, but they are also bound to cover the Palestine question following the start of a dialogue between the PLO and the U.S., the paper noted. It said that both issues are of concern to the Arab Gulf countries which support the convening of an international conference on the Middle East and back all U.N. endeavours to achieve peace and security in their region. The paper noted that the leaders of the Gulf countries have succeeded in creating a closely-knit bloc and a group of countries that maintain high level consultation and coordination in economic, military and political fields. It said that the group serves as an ideal example for the rest of the Arab World, especially countries adjacent to one another that ought to cooperate, paving the way for an all out unity among Arab states.

The editor of Al Ra'i Arabic daily comments Wednesday on the U.S.-PLO dialogue which he says is not an objective in itself but rather a means for convening an international Middle East peace conference that would end the Arab-Israeli conflict. Rakan Al Majali says the Americans should seek to convene the projected conference to help implement U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and ought to stop advocating the idea of direct talks between the Arabs and Israel because this is a call for capitulation. The Arabs, Majali says, have offered all help and the PLO has recognised U.N. resolutions, and Israel's right in living in peace and renounced all forms of terrorism, thus paving the way for the proposed conference. But, he adds, what is being said in Washington nowadays does not indicate that the U.S. is serious about a lasting settlement which can only come through the international peace conference. Therefore, he concludes, the PLO should not be left alone in the arena, trying to persuade Washington to change its mind, and the Arab states ought to take the initiative and give impetus to the current efforts to convene the conference and attain peace.

Al Dustour daily wrote Wednesday on the formation of the Israeli coalition cabinet from the Likud and Labour parties. The new government is a clear prescription for a crisis, and reflects the Zionist leaders' intention of maintaining the present state of affairs in the Middle East, the paper noted. It said that indeed the Labour Party has found itself now in the same boat with the Likud, raising the same slogans, adopting the same extremist policies against the Palestinians and determined to perpetuate occupation through fascist means and aggression. For the Arabs, the paper said, this is not a novelty because it is the Arabs who realise the evil nature of the Labour Party that spearheaded the previous acts of aggression and wars on the Arab World. But it said the emergence of Labour acting hand in hand with the Likud is bound to disillusion Americans and Europeans who had thought that Israel contained some moderate elements and forces that can lead the Jewish state towards peace with its neighbours.

Sawt Al Shaab daily wrote on the worldwide support for the peace process in the Middle East and the need for the Arab countries to put all their weight behind the Palestinians in their quest for peace and in their endeavours to regain their usurped lands and rights. The Palestinian leadership, backed by the Arab states has been able to enlist backing from various countries of the world, something which caused Israel to lose the initiative and to feel more isolated from the rest of the world than ever before, the paper noted.

The stone throwers got everyone on the move

By William Pfaff

PARIS — Yasser Arafat has finally spoken the words demanded of him by Washington, and Washington now talks to Yasser Arafat. One may call it a triumph of Swedish diplomacy. One might call it a bluff called. But even though Washington and PLO talk, neither Israel nor the PLO may be capable of making peace.

Forty years of war and near-war have created an investment in conflict on both sides, arising from the divisions within each camp. War or the rumour of war is more easily tolerated than peace, when people fear that peace will take from them what war lets them think they might still win. Only the spontaneous insurrection of the Palestinians of Gaza and the West Bank was able to break a status quo composed of episodic, inconclusive conflict, which leaders on both sides preferred to the dangers of peace.

An arduous and prolonged diplomatic struggle was necessary to get from Yasser Arafat the fateful words that recognised Israel and renounced terrorism. This is because the Palestinian movement has been at war with itself for years. For many Palestinians, recognising Israel amounts to abandoning the primordial political claim made by Palestinians, that the land is theirs, usurped by foreigners who took it by force. Arafat has now said in effect: The foreigners are irreversibly there. It is a dangerous step to say, and Palestinian extremists — or Israeli ones — could easily restart the dialectic of violence.

There is, meanwhile, serious questions as to Israel's ability to make peace. Peace threatens Israel because it requires a decision on the territorial question, and the territorial question poses essential and unresolved issues about the nature, quality and destiny of Israel: Is Israel a religious state or a secular one? A prophesied or providential nation or a mere political entity? Is it an achieved nation or an expansionist one? Does it need only a tangible security — negotiable, quantifiable — or is Israel agent of an uncompromisable divine purpose?

These questions are further from answer today than they were in 1948, when Israel was founded. The pressures imposed on Israel for 40 years have intensified and radicalised the national debate. The practical result is stalemate: the impasse ratified in November's election, which has prevented formation of a new government.

The debate is embittered by Israel's dependence upon the United States. Because of it, Palestinians believe extravagantly in the power of the United States to make Israel do whatever Washington wants. This is a false belief, pregnant with further disappointment, which the Palestinians will interpret as betrayal. The United States cannot make Israel make peace with the Palestinians. Possibly it can force Israel to bargain, perhaps even to settle; but such a settlement has to find ratification inside Israel. Can the PLO guarantee its part of a settlement? It is because the forces of contradiction inside both camps are so strong that the status quo has been the more attractive option for both parties for years. It has been so for Washington — despite protestations to the contrary.

Unsatisfactory as the status quo is, it has been easier for Israelis to live with a low level of internal violence than to confront the nation's essential divisions. It has been easier for Palestinians to live with deaths and dreams than to compromise. The status quo has spared American presidents the domestic political costs of confronting Israel; and the absence of a Middle East settlement has permitted Washington to marginalise Soviet influence and sponsor Egypt and Saudi Arabia as well as Israel.

West Germans debate taboo

By Serge Schmemmann

BONN — In the month since the speaker of parliament stepped down over a blunt speech he delivered about Hitler, the incident has touched off a national debate about the phobias and taboos that restrict discussion of the Nazi past.

Newspapers and the former speaker himself, Philipp Jenninger, have been inundated with thousands of letters, most of them supporting Jenninger's attempt to go beyond the ritual guilt and mourning, to try and explain why so many Germans were seduced by Hitler.

Jenninger himself, in his first interview since his resignation on Nov. 11, appeared to remain baffled by the strong reaction of his colleagues, about 50 of whom walked out during his speech. But he also spoke with some satisfaction of the subsequent public response and debate.

"I was not trying in any way to deny or justify what had happened, but to hold up a mirror and admonish people," he said. "This is something people in Germany are just not used to."

Sitting in a small temporary office in the parliament building after moving out of the speaker's suite, the 56-year-old politician, who remains a member of the Bundestag, gazed out over the hazy Rhine as he spoke.

The speech that cost Jenninger his office was at a special commemorative session of the Bundestag marking the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the nationwide Nazi assault on Jews that showed the deadly resolve of Hitler's anti-Semitism.

In the address, Jenninger sought to describe how the large majority of Germans had welcomed Hitler, and in doing so he quoted extensively from Nazi texts or paraphrased how Germans of the time would have thought.

Soon after he began, legislators began storming out, many in dismay. One reason, which Jenninger does not entirely contest, was that his speech had been clumsily written and his droning delivery blurred the distinction between his thoughts and those he was condemning.

Yet, even after the printed text became available and legislators could see his intent, and after furious late-night debate, the pressure on Jenninger to resign did not abate, even among his fellow Christian Democrats.

It was this mute consensus among the lawmakers, that Jenninger has somehow violated an unwritten code on how to address the past, that has come under scrutiny.

Although there have been assertions abroad that legislators walked out because they were hearing truths that they did not want to hear, commentators here have focused rather on the almost obsessive German sensitivity to any discussion of the past, especially to any statement that might be construed in the United States or Israel as a sign of resurgent anti-Semitism, or of "relativisation," of tacitly trying to excuse German behaviour by giving it a broader context.

This fear of doing anything that might appear insensitive became especially acute during the anniversary of Kristallnacht. Politicians seemed to dread that they might inadvertently bring on the sort of excruciating embarrassment that followed Chancellor Helmut Kohl's efforts to commemorate German war dead at Bitburg three years ago.

So, when Jenninger began reading from Nazi texts and voicing anti-Semitic attitudes, one prominent politician recalled that all he wanted was a hole through which he could sink.

Jenninger acknowledged that he might have written and read his speech better. But of the 10,000 letters he has received, he said, only 40 or 50 had failed to understand his intent.

He said the idea for his approach was born in a conversation with a girl who described a grandfather who had loved, a grandfather who had been pious, educated and warm. After his death, the girl told Jenninger, she learned that he had been a Nazi judge who had condemned and sentenced Jews.

"She asked me how could it be that he would do this in former times, and then be such a wonderful man after the war," he said. "And this is what originally led to the speech."

He discussed the tenor of the address with Jewish friends, Jenninger said. "It was they who advised me not to make a run-of-the-mill memorial speech, but rather to try to delineate the causes. So, I started reading up on that period. I read a lot, maybe too much, about the causes."

Jenninger said he had received support in letters from Jews in Israel and the United States. Simon Wiesenthal, the Vienna-based Nazi-hunter, described the speaker as "a friend of Jews and a friend of Israel," and his resignation as "a big tragedy."

Among the hundreds of letters published in the press, most have supported Jenninger.

The Jenninger case shows that beautiful words and pleasing formations are much more in demand in Germany than the undisguised truth," wrote Joachim Madlow of Ulm.

Peter Ehlers of Suderbrun wrote, "It is strange that in our state it takes months or years to get a corrupt or unsuitable politician out of office, but there's no problem to strip an honest and engaged man of his office and reputation because of some misguided passages and clumsiness."

Jenninger acknowledged that he had been heartened by the response. "That, of course, is encouraging," he said. "If I've been able to make a contribution to reconciling Jews and Germans, this is something well worth doing, something which makes my sacrifice in resigning from office very much worthwhile."

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Bush likely to change course despite Reagan claim of mandate

By W. Dale Nelson
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Ronald Reagan said the voters gave George Bush a mandate to continue the Reagan administration policies, but Bush appears likely to change course on some key issues, both critics and supporters say.

"I think, fiscally, circumstances will dictate that he has no choice but to be, if anything, a little more conservative than Reagan, in other areas he could be substantially more moderate," says Iowa's Republican Rep. Jim Leach, who supported Bush for the Republican presidential nomination.

"It is obvious that he will not permit Central America or Nicaragua to become the centerpiece of his foreign policy as Reagan did," says Lawrence Birns, director of the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, a Washington organization critical of the administration.

"You are not going to hear from him the same kind of fierce rhetoric about limited government that you have heard the last eight years," says M.E. Bradford, a professor of English at the University of Dallas and a writer on southern conservatism. "The sharp edge is going to be off a lot of things."

There are other hints that winds of change may be blowing despite the much-heralded continuity of the vice president's succession to the presidency by election for the first time in 150 years.

As his national security adviser, Bush has chosen Brent Scowcroft, whose views have often differed from those of the Reagan administration. Scowcroft supported the single-warhead mobile Midgetman when the Defense Department wanted to scrap the missile and deploy the 10-warhead MX on rail cars instead.

And in testimony last year, Scowcroft called the administration's "broad" interpretation of the anti-ballistic missile treaty, a translation designed to ease the way for tests of the strategic defence initiative, or "Star Wars," space-based missile defence system, "unbefitting."

Black civil rights activist Jesse Jackson met with Bush Nov. 30 and said he was able to discuss matters with him that he had never been able to raise with Reagan. He said they talked about anti-Semitism and racism among other subjects.

The same day, Bush met with environmental leaders, one of whom, Jay D. Hair, president of the national Wildlife Federation, said the difference between the president and the president-elect was like "night and day" although Bush made no specific commitments. Major environmental groups opposed Bush during the campaign, but he repeatedly called himself an environmentalist, something Reagan seldom did.

In East-West relations, Reagan has consistently framed the basic conflict with the Soviets in moral terms. The president-elect speaks more often in terms of great power competition. It was Reagan, not Bush, who used to call the Soviet Union "the evil empire."

In the campaign, Bush, like Reagan, promised to pick judges who respect the law, not make it. He departed from anything Reagan ever said, however, in also promising there would be no ideological "litmus test" for judicial nominations.

With all of this, there are still more similarities than differences in their views, judging from their own statements and those of others.

George Bush has gotten his mandate from the American people, the mandate to continue the policies that have brought peace and prosperity," Reagan said four days after the election.

Most insistently, Bush has restated the key pledge on which Reagan stood for eight years: no new taxes.

"For the foreseeable future, I think the people who are looking for him to change his mind about that are very foolish," said the conservative scholar Bradford.

Leach, however, said that "circumstances and compromises could mean some movement" on this issue although Bush will "without doubt... be much more disinclined to look at the tax structure" than his Democratic critics.

Bradford and the Hemispheric Affairs Council's Birns agreed that in dealing with the Sandinista government of Nicaragua President Daniel Ortega, Bush would seek a solution more acceptable to Democrats in Congress than the all-out military aid for the contra rebels that Reagan has favoured.

"I don't think the contras will be abandoned," said Bradford. "But I think he will try very hard to bring a lot of Democrats with him."

"I think his instincts are the same as Reagan's," the Texas professor added. "He would like to blow Ortega out of the tub."

"We know that Bush is a cowboy on the subject of Nicaragua," said Birns. "But it just doesn't make sense that he is going to strap himself to a policy that has failed."

Democratic house speaker Jim Wright of Texas, a foe of contra aid, said after a post-election meeting with Bush that he was "encouraged to believe that there is a search for a policy that will be acceptable" both to the president-elect and Congress.

On the Middle East, many experts contend that the Palestinian uprising and other developments make the time ripe for more active U.S. diplomacy. Sol Linowitz, who was sent to the region as a special envoy by former President Jimmy Carter, has suggested that Bush promptly name another such emissary.

Bush aides have said it is too early to make such a decision, since the new administration's Middle Eastern policy is still being formulated.

Reagan last week authorised a "substantive dialogue" between the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Bush said he supported the decision.

"I think Bush will be committed to the future of Israel," Leach said. "He also, I think, recognises it is unwise not to listen to all sides. I think you'll see someone in the White House who understands more of the subtleties of the Middle East than we've had in recent years."

Bush travelled to Israel, Egypt and Jordan in 1986 in a trip billed at the time as a mission to spur the peace process.

On other issues, Leach said, "I look for progressive arms control. I look for a much more effective and principled use of international organisations like the United Nations. He set a little more moderate agenda in the environment, in education, in day care."

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ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily Wednesday advocates the case of butchers' stores assigned by the Ministry of Supply to sell fresh lean meat imported from Bulgaria and other countries and notes that he had received a petition signed by 295 butchers who said the meat is being consumed by the majority of the public in Jordan. Behind the owners of these centres lie thousands and thousands of limited income families who cannot afford to buy locally produced meat at double the price, says the columnist Mohammad Daoudieh. The writer, who raises the issue now in view of recent reports about the government's intention to ban imports of fresh lean meat, says that butchers who sell the meat had spent no less than JD 5,000 each on furnishing their stores for the business in compliance with Ministry of Supply regulations. Daoudieh estimates that millions of dinars had been spent on these stores which are considered as a blessing to the majority of Jordanians and who will be severely hurt should the government go ahead with its reported plan. The writer refers to a decision by the Ministry of Supply to import frozen meat to substitute for the fresh meat and says that the public shuns this kind of meat although it is available in large quantities on the local market. The writer notes that the government upon announcing its recent economic measures pledged that it would not take any step that would adversely affect the standards of living especially for people with limited and low income, and points out that imported fresh meat is considered by many as bread and other basic commodities which unlike the luxury goods should be provided at the lowest possible price rates.

OPEN FORUM Christmas 1988

THIS is the season when, throughout the world, Christmas trees appear, their lights shining, attracting the attention of passers-by and giving pleasure to all who see. But, shouldn't we consider their real meaning?

Originally the tree came from the Bible's Tree of Life. Originated in Germany, and then spreading throughout the world, it became a tradition to bring significance into the meaning of Christmas by decorating the tree, bringing light, as a symbol of the birth of Christ who is born as the "Light of the World."

Santa Nicola became well-known as the saint who brought gifts to the poor — a far cry from now, when in our materialistic world there is competition almost everywhere as to who will give the most expensive present.

Jesus was not born into such circumstances. We read in St. Luke's Gospel, Chapter 2, V. 7-8: "She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

If Jesus were born to-day, He would, maybe, choose the poor in Sudan, or in Latin America, or in Armenia, or anywhere where there are oppressed and suffering people, maybe at this time He would come again to Bethlehem, where to-day there is much suffering.

Jesus is the Son of God, the Redeemer. St. John tells us in his Gospel, Chapter 1, V. 14: "And Christ became a human being, and lived here on earth among us, and was full of loving forgiveness and truth. And some of us have been His glory — the glory of the only Son of the Heavenly Father."

Jesus will be in our life. We must prepare for His coming by reconciliation, having peace among us. On Christmas night we will hear the reading from St. Paul: "...that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the appearing of the glory of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ." The birth of Jesus will then truly bring us peace, and the glory of the Lord will shine on us as it did that First Christmas Night when the Angels sang "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy His favour."

Rev. Moussa Adeli

Christmas masses in English

Church of St. John Baptist, De La Salle, Jabal Russein, Amman.
24-12 — 10.00 p.m.
25-12 — 5.00 p.m.

Church of the Annunciation — Jabal Weibdeh, Amman
25-12 — 12.00 noon

Church of St. Joseph — Jabal Amman, Amman
25-12 — 11.00 a.m.

Portrait of a Tamil Tiger

By Hugh Pain
Reuters

VAVUNIYA DISTRICT, Sri Lanka — He is 28 and has been living off the land for five years. Codenamed Dinesh, political leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in Vavuniya district, he wears a moustache and a scrubby beard.

He moves with the easy authority of a local hero. Pistol at his hip, bodyguards loitering beside him with their AK-47s, he does not bother to conceal his presence from the villages or passers-by.

"I am proud of this life," he says. "I am lucky to have this life to fight for our community."

Dinesh, believed to be a member of the Tigers' high command, is reluctant to talk about the independent Eelam (homeland) for which he fights. It will be

Socialist, he says. For the rest, and as to whether only one party will be allowed: "It will be decided by the leadership."

Mao Tsetung once said that to survive, guerrillas must swim in a friendly sea.

For Dinesh, talking to Reuters in a jungle village in the north of the island as the local boys look on with awe, the shopkeepers supply refreshments and the farmers sing his praises, there is no doubt that the sea is friendly.

"For the good of the Tamil people he has given up all personal comfort, wealth, family," said one farmer with fervent admiration. "The Tigers are suffering for the benefit of the Tamils." The others murmured agreement.

Days earlier, a senior member of the Sri Lankan armed forces, told Reuters: "Have a free election and the LTTE will be sure to win. They have successfully

identified themselves with the aspirations of the Tamil people."

But Dinesh has lost faith in elections. After Indian troops arrived last year under an Indo-Sri Lankan accord designed to end the Tamil rebellion, "we openly challenged the Indian government to have a referendum to find out from the Tamil people whether they were for the accord or not."

"They have not even replied." And he pours scorn on last month's elections to a newly-formed provincial council giving greater autonomy to Tamil areas, claiming that people were forced to vote and that only candidates acceptable to the government took part.

"The Tamils are yearning for a peaceful and quiet and independent life. Their need is not for elections. What they want is independence."

Dinesh was only 11 when the Tigers were formed in 1971 but, coming from the area where Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese live close to the minority Tamils of the north, he has bitter memories of discrimination, land theft and physical violence against his people, which he says was government-sponsored.

"Past experience has shown us not to trust any Sri Lankan politicians. The LTTE is firm that the solution is a separate state."

Dinesh was a student before becoming a full-time militant in the wake of anti-Tamil riots that killed hundreds of people in July 1983.

Dressed in a checked shirt and blue trousers, Dinesh gives few clues to his identity. But his determination is steady. "For a human being, freedom is the first thing. Without freedom, the rest is meaningless."

Le Caire: que faire

Pour juguler l'inquiétante croissance démographique du Caire, l'égyptienne envisageant sérieusement d'interdire aux nouveaux venus d'y habiter.

Cette idée a été émise par le gouverneur du Caire, M. Youssef Sabri Abou Taleb, qui gère une ville dont les infrastructures n'avaient été ni rénovées ni développées partiellement depuis les années cinquante, alors que sa population est passée d'un peu plus de quatre millions d'habitants en 1966 à 10,6 millions en 1986. Sous l'effet conjugué de l'exode rural et de sa propre croissance interne, la population de cette ville augmente annuellement de quelque 300.000 personnes. Le responsable égyptien admet toutefois que trois tentatives de limiter la résidence au Caire dans les années soixante et plus tard ont été vouées à l'échec. Selon M. Abou Taleb, la densité moyenne de population au km² au Caire est de 28.000 personnes. Dans les quartiers populaires, elle peut atteindre 116.000 personnes. Des experts occidentaux situent les taux d'occupation des habitations à 1,5 personne en moyenne par pièce dans tout le Caire. Cette proportion s'élève à 2,3 dans les quartiers les plus déshérités.

D'autres études effectuées par des universitaires ont établi que le bruit a crevé des plafonds. Ainsi, des relevés effectués sur les principales places du Caire à différentes heures de la journée

indiquent que la norme mondiale admise variant entre 35 et 45 décibels était très largement dépassée puisque le vacarme atteignait 78,9 à 88,4 décibels à certains endroits.

Au niveau de l'enseignement, la situation est plus dramatique encore. Le ministre de l'éducation, M. Fathi Sourour, a proposé que le cycle d'enseignement primaire soit réduit d'un an afin de limiter à 40 le nombre d'élèves par classe et de supprimer progressivement les trois périodes d'enseignement en une journée, pratique rendue nécessaire par le grand nombre d'élèves.

Quant à la crise endémique du logement, 61.730 familles vivent dans la "cité des morts", sorte d'énorme cimetière, dans l'Est du Caire. Sachant qu'une famille égyptienne moyenne compte sept membres, le nombre de ces personnes serait d'environ 400.000, alors que selon certaines statistiques, probablement exagérées, il serait autour de deux millions.

Pour décongestionner la région du Grand Caire, le gouvernement égyptien, assisté d'urbanistes français de l'Institut d'aménagement et d'urbanisme de la région d'Ile de France (AURIF) travaille à l'édification de dix agglomérations nouvelles qui s'articuleront autour d'un boulevard périphérique de 72 km dont près du quart a été achevé. Axé sur l'idée de "redéployer" la population du Grand Caire, ce projet vise à faire de ces nouvelles agglomérations des entités indépendantes de la capitale du point de vue des infrastructures.

Adnane Zaka (AFP)

Territoires occupés: les options israéliennes

En Israël, les partis politiques ont chacun leur opinion sur ce qu'il faudrait faire des territoires occupés.

Le Likoud, majoritaire à la Knesseth et dont le chef est M. Yitzhak Shamir, chargé de former le prochain gouvernement, estime que:

— Les territoires occupés font partie de la terre d'Israël (Eretz Israël). Même s'il n'envisage pas leur annexion formelle — pour des considérations internationales et démographiques —, il n'est pas question qu'une autre souveraineté que celle d'Israël s'y exerce. Tout au plus, leurs habitants jouiront d'une autonomie.

— Pour régler le problème des relations avec les pays arabes voisins, il propose des négociations directes et exclut toute conférence internationale.

Le parti travailliste de M. Shimon Peres:

— Il accepte un "compromis territorial" qui consistera à évacuer une certaine partie des territoires occupés. Il accepte également le principe d'élections libres, dégagant des personnalités palestiniennes avec qui Israël fixera le sort de la Cisjordanie et de Gaza.

De même que le Likoud, il refuse de négocier avec l'OLP. Mais il laisse entendre que si les personnalités issues des élections appartiennent à l'OLP, il pourrait traiter avec elles, si elles reconnaissent Israël et abandonnent la violence.

Il soutient le principe d'une conférence internationale, mais comme préambule à des négociations directes. (AFP)

Mitterrand approuve le dialogue OLP-USA

Le Président François Mitterrand a approuvé, le 15 décembre, la décision des Etats-Unis d'accepter le dialogue avec l'Organisation de Libération de la Palestine (OLP) pour aider à la recherche d'un processus de paix au Proche-Orient.

Evocant les décisions annoncées par le chef de l'OLP, à Alger et à Genève, à savoir la proclamation d'un Etat palestinien, le droit pour Israël d'exister dans la sécurité et la paix et la "re-

nonciation au terrorisme", M. Mitterrand a observé: "Cela nous touche tous, car il est très important que l'OLP ait proclamé un Etat palestinien, ait adhéré aux résolutions 181, 242 et 338 des Nations Unies, qu'elle ait admis le droit d'exister d'Israël, qu'elle ait condamné le terrorisme."

Ainsi, a poursuivi le président de la république, l'OLP "a acquis à nos yeux la représentativité que certains lui déniaient, que la France lui reconnaissait." (AFP)

Palais de verre au coeur de Paris

L'IMA: un an déjà

Au bord de la Seine, face à Notre-Dame, l'Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA) vitrine occidentale de la culture arabo-islamique, dresse désormais sur neuf étages sa somptueuse architecture de verre, d'acier et d'aluminium.

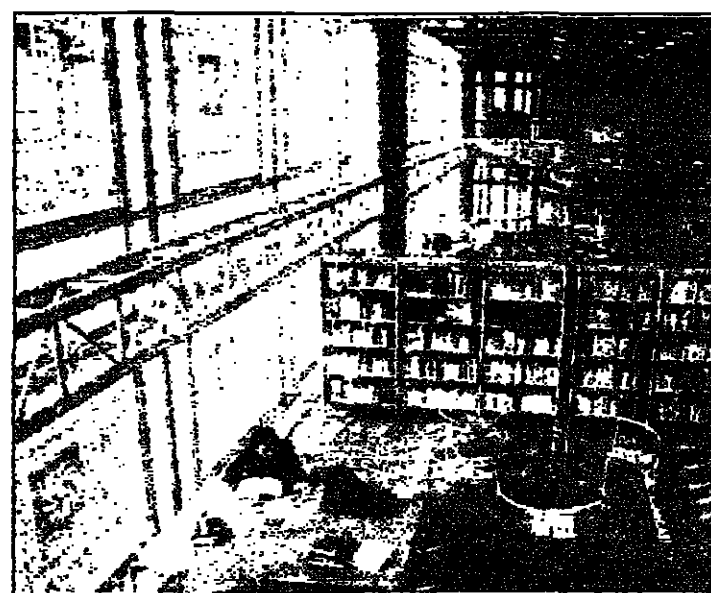
L'idée de ce "Beaubourg arabo-musulman", de cette "huitième merveille architecturale de la Capitale", comme l'a qualifiée la presse, a été lancée en 1974 sous le septennat de M. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. Elle devait être reprise par son successeur, le Président François Mitterrand, et réalisée en sept ans. Inaugurée fin 1987, l'IMA a maintenant adopté son régime de croisière et fait désormais partie du paysage parisien.

C'est le résultat d'une volonté commune de la France et de vingt pays de la Ligue arabe. L'acte de sa fondation en précise les objectifs: développer la connaissance du monde arabe; animer une recherche en profondeur sur sa langue et ses valeurs culturelles et spirituelles; favoriser les échanges et la coopération, en particulier dans les domaines des sciences et des techniques entre la France et le monde arabe; contribuer aux relations entre celui-ci et l'Europe.

L'Institut est placé sous l'autorité d'un Haut Conseil composé de représentants de tous les Etats membres. Son conseil d'administration est à 50 pour cent français et à 50 pour cent arabe — de même que le personnel qui en assure le fonctionnement.

Le financement de l'IMA — investissement initial (environ 500 millions de francs) et budget de fonctionnement (80 millions de francs en 1987) — est assuré à 60 pour cent par la France et à 40 pour cent par ses partenaires arabes.

Dominant le parvis de marbre blanc sur lequel elle s'ouvre, la



La bibliothèque de l'IMA

façade sud est un émerveillement pour le visiteur. L'architecte Jean Nouvel l'a traitée comme un gigantesque moucharrabieh en s'inspirant des dessins des mosaïques de l'Alhambra. Bel exploit technique et bel effet visuel que l'apposition de ses deux cent quarante deux diaphragmes d'un mètre carré chacun, s'ouvrant et se refermant en fonction de la lumière extérieure, grâce à une cellule photoélectrique qui en dose l'intensité.

Escaladons les étages dans l'un des ascenseurs qui s'élèvent dans des cages aux parois de verre. Lumière et transparence: telles ont été les mobiles des créateurs.

Spirale-minaret

L'une des innovations spectaculaires est la "Tour des livres". Quarante mille livres (il y en aura cent mille) tapissent les murs d'un cylindre de marbre blanc qui s'élève du rez-de-chaussée au sixième étage en une spirale hélicoïdale évoquant les minarets

d'anciennes mosquées. Le musée permanent de l'IMA occupe cinq étages et réunit actuellement quelque quatre cents œuvres. Il invite à découvrir la diversité des cultures et la profonde unité des arts de l'Islam. De la période pré-islamique, du Golfe à l'Atlantique, à travers les sciences, les miniatures et les arts domestiques, il constitue la synthèse d'une culture dont l'apport à la civilisation occidentale est souvent mal connu. Un étage consacré à la création plastique contemporaine, accueille les œuvres d'artistes exposant à titre individuel ou collectif.

Dans la médiathèque audiovisuelle, le simple curieux, l'étudiant, le chercheur disposent de cabines individuelles de consultation où ils peuvent visionner photos et films documentaires ou écouter la musique de leur choix. Cela, après avoir pianoté sur un clavier semblable à celui du Minitel. A proximité immédiate, "le mur des télévisions" offre un

aperçu de ce que les télespectateurs du monde arabe découvrent sur leurs "écrans". Plus tard, grâce aux progrès de la technique, ces écrans recevront directement les émissions de Bagdad ou de Tripoli, de Rabat ou de Bahrein.

Polémiques

Un auditorium de 364 places est réservé aux concerts, spectacles, conférences et débats. L'atelier des enfants conçu, comme une féerie des Mille et une nuits, tranche avec la sobriété aux gris dominants de l'ensemble. Les jeunes peuvent s'initier à la calligraphie, à la musique arabe, à la technique du stuc. Enfin, au dernier étage un restaurant de luxe s'ouvre sur une terrasse d'où la vue plonge, entre les bras de la Seine, sur le chevet de Notre-Dame et les toits du Louvre. Il permet d'apprécier les spécialités orientales et les crus du vignoble libanais ou ceux de la Mitidja.

La création de l'IMA n'est pas allée sans difficultés: polémiques quant au choix de son emplacement; problèmes financiers (quelques pays se faisant tirer l'oreille au moment de verser leur contribution); controverse à propos de son statut. Depuis qu'il a ouvert ses portes des frictions se sont produites entre représentants de nations chatoillieuses sur l'image qu'elle entend offrir au monde: à propos d'un livre présent sur les rayons de la bibliothèque qui attaque tel gouvernement ou de la projection d'un film jugé hostile pour tel autre.

Problèmes inévitables, et d'ailleurs prévisibles. Ils ne sauraient remettre en cause la vocation de l'IMA, nouvelle et prestigieuse adresse culturelle pour cent cinquante millions d'arabes du Maghreb, du Proche-Orient et de la Péninsule Arabique.

Camille Hérisson

Criquets: la première bataille

Le ministre jordanien de l'Agriculture, M. Marwan Al-Hmoud, a affirmé dimanche à Amman que les équipes de lutte anti-cridienne ont réussi à détruire un des essaims de criquets pèlerins qui ont envahi le Sud de la Jordanie.

Douze équipes, munies d'insecticides et d'appareillage spécialisé, dépechèrent sur place, s'efforçant, depuis mercredi, d'éradiquer ces essaims de criquets, de trois kilomètres carrés chacun, qui avaient envahi les régions d'Al-Sajb et d'Al-Moudawarra, frontalières de l'Arabie Saoudite.

Au cours d'une rencontre avec des représentants des pays Arabes et amis et des fonds internationaux à Amman, M. Al-Hmoud a exposé la situation à ces derniers et réitéré son appel à leur aide pour mettre fin à cette invasion qu'il a estimée non "dangereuse mais en même temps non négligeable".

Le Canada a fait un don de 45.000 dollars canadiens et le Koweït a donné deux tonnes d'insecticides. De son côté l'Arabie Saoudite, qui lutte actuellement contre les criquets sur un front de 1.200 km de longueur, a déclaré être disposée à apporter toute aide dont la Jordanie aurait besoin, a affirmé son ambassadeur à Amman, M. Mohammad Al-Issa.

La Jordanie avait lancé la semaine dernière un appel à une

aide internationale pour organiser la lutte contre une invasion éventuelle de son territoire par les criquets pèlerins.

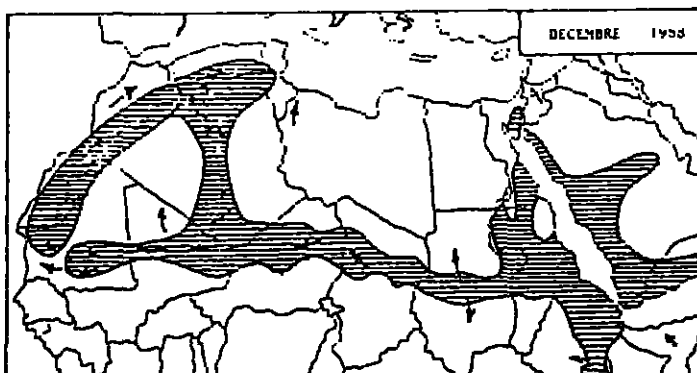
Elle avait alors précisé qu'elle était en mesure de déboursier 834.000 dollars pour cette opération, dont le coût global est estimé à 2,4 millions de dollars.

Cette aide devait notamment financer l'acquisition d'insecticides, d'appareils de pulvérisation, d'avions de reconnaissance, ainsi qu'un système de communication spécialisé et l'intervention d'experts.

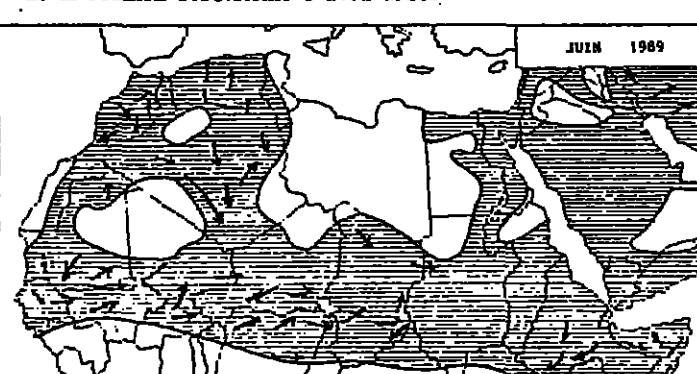
D'autre part une chambre d'opération avait été installée depuis mercredi au ministère de l'Agriculture afin d'assurer la coordination entre les équipes et les forces armées de terre et de l'air, les forces de sécurité et les gardes-frontalières dans leur lutte contre cette invasion.

Par ailleurs le directeur du département de météorologie, M. Ali Abandah, a estimé que les conditions atmosphériques actuelles favorisent la lutte anticridienne entamée par les autorités et les forces d'intervention jordaniennes.

Selon les prévisions atmosphériques, une "baïsse de la température accompagnée de vagues de vent froid et de chutes de pluie attendues dans les jours qui viennent limiteront cette invasion de criquets et leur multiplication", a indiqué à l'AFP M. Abandah.



Le scénario du pire: étude réalisée dans l'hypothèse du déclenchement d'une invasion généralisée du criquet pèlerin si elle n'était pas enrayerée par les opérations de lutte chimique, et remise à l'occasion de la réunion FAO/Rome 6 avril 1988.



Un palais des mille et une nuits

Au bord de la Seine, face au chevet de Notre-Dame, dans le prolongement du boulevard Saint-Germain se dresse un Palais des mille et une nuits: l'Institut du Monde Arabe. Le terrain sur lequel il est bâti est situé juste à la frontière de deux tissus urbains, l'un traditionnel, l'île Saint Louis, l'autre plus moderne, la faculté de Jussieu.

De glace et de chrome, ce bijou architectural est l'exacte réponse à ce contexte. Il paracheve le tracé de la faculté de Jussieu et accroche enfin le boulevard Saint-Germain à son quai. Pour le passant qui se promène le long des berges,

l'Institut semble au premier abord se fondre dans son environnement. Mais, irrésistiblement son regard y revient, car l'œil, inconsciemment, y a décelé l'anormal: un reflet accorché à courbe la où justement, n'y a rien à refléter.

Reprenant les thèmes historiques de la géométrie arabe, la façade vitrée comporte une protection visuelle intégrée entre les vitrages au moyen d'une trame vitrée basée sur le principe du diaphragme.

L'Institut est coupé en deux par une faille qui aboutit sur une cour au coeur du bâtiment, exprimant ainsi l'intériorité caractéristique de l'ar-

chitecture du monde arabe. Vers le quai, le mur rideau est strié horizontalement de "stores", barres métalliques espacées de 50 cm. Trois épaisseurs de verre se superposent. L'une est finement striée tous les 6 cm, les deux autres, gravées en pointillé se superposent et se complètent.

Dedans, des espaces contradictoires oppriment ou libèrent: oppression des salles basses; choc spatial des volumes de la Tour des livres; verticalité du hall transparent, toute hauteur; horizons, avec les vues vers Notre-Dame...

L'IMA n'est-il qu'une belle construction technologique?

Certes non et la réalité est toute autre. Les promesses technologiques sont tenues secrètes, outrepassées par les choix esthétiques de précision, de netteté, de transparence et de brillance.

L'architecte Jean Nouvel aide de l'équipe Architecture Studio et du saoudien Ziad Zaidane a su concilier la culture arabe et la culture occidentale dans une même oeuvre.

Ce bâtiment devient le symbole de l'amitié entre vingt et un Etats qui veulent que la Méditerranée ne soit pas un fossé, mais un lien entre eux.

Bénédict Meyssan

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

Nuit blanche (CCF lundi 26)

7 Morts sur Ordonnance
De Jacques Rouffio, avec Michel Piccoli et Jane Birkin (1976)
Le destin tragique de deux médecins dans une ville de province. (A 1815)

Le Cheval d'Orgueil
avec Jacques Dufré (1980)
Chronique d'une région pauvre de la Bretagne de 108 à 1918 (A 2000)

Mort Un Dimanche de Pluie

Avec Nicole Garcia. 1987
Les Bronski n'ont qu'une idée en tête, prendre la place des Briand prendre possession de leur maison, de leur vie, par vengeance. (A 2300)

Sur Les Quais centre culturel marocain

Martin Brando avec Rod Steiger (1954).

Nostalgie classique de la lutte d'un ancien boxeur contre son passé, 59 conscience, et les machinations du mafia qui l'encercent. (Jeudi 22, A 1900)

Les Chariots de Feu le conseil britannique

Ben Cross avec Ian Charleston (1982). Deux athlètes anglais, qui proviennent d'origines sociales très

différentes se préparent pour l'Olympiade de 1924. A chacun ses propres mobiles, à tous le même but — la victoire. (Mercredi 28, A 1900)

Ciné-Club

(Séances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00, 21h30)
Le 22: Jack the Ripper part 1, China Town, Rag Time, Alien, Looking for Mr. Goodbar. Le 23: Jack the Ripper part 2, Radiation, Video Drome, Apology, Crime of Passion. Le 24: The Fifth Musketeer, Heart Burn, Amadeus, Goodbye Civil, Invasion of the Body Snatchers. Le 25: Nosferatu, the Witches of Eastwick, She or Aisha, the Fall of the House of Usher, Zorba the Greek. Le 26: Scaramouche, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, She, The Spectre of Edgar Allen, Poe, Splendor in the Grass. Le 27: Ryans Daughter, Slava, Hunger 20000 Leagues Under the Sea, The Last Tycoon. Le 28: The Wall, Scanners, For a Few Dollars More, The Postman Always Rings Twice, The Last Emperor.

TELEVISION

'Don Giovanni

le conte d'un de ce jeune chevalier qui dévore les femmes tout en les méprisant, méprisé lui-même par la haute société. (25, 27 17h30)

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Tribes of Wadi Khaled thrive on smuggling

By Zina Hemady
Reuters

WADI KHALED, Lebanon — Trapped in this northern Lebanese valley, a forgotten community living by tribal traditions thrives on smuggling goods across the river to Syria.

Despite the affluence this has brought, the bedouins of Wadi Khaled feel prisoners in their own land, captive because of an historical mishap that left them with no citizenship rights. Their status has been "under study" since 1968.

More than 50 years ago, the tribes' fear of officials drove the people to hide in the woods. They missed Lebanon's only official census, conducted in 1932 when the country was still under French mandate.

No population count has been carried out since, so the status of the residents of Wadi Khaled is still pending.

Abu Mustapha, clad in tradi-

tional Arab headdress and grey gallabia or ankle-length shirt, said the tribesmen mistook census officials for envoys of the Ottoman empire authorities.

"They hid in the woods because they were afraid their children would be drafted into the Ottoman army. They were illiterate people and did not understand that we were not under Ottoman rule anymore," said Abu Mustapha.

The bedouins of Wadi Khaled hold residence permits, issued to all foreigners living in Lebanon, and a document which classifies them in a "citizenship under study" category.

Unlike Palestinians and other refugees in Lebanon who have a special travel document, these tribesmen have no passports and can travel almost nowhere. Syria is the only country that allows them inside its borders, just for brief visits.

"We have become prisoners in our own land," said Sweid.

The people of Wadi Khaled, named after Khaled Ibn Al Walid who drove out the Byzantine Christians, are divided into tribes who trace their origin to what is now Saudi Arabia.

Until the 1960s, they raised sheep in the bare rugged hills nearby. Then they turned to trade.

"We are on the border between a Socialist country (Syria) and a country that believes in free trade (Lebanon)," said Bashir Hammoud.

Syria has strict import controls and the smuggled traffic across the Nahr Al Bared river into the country includes television sets, radios, videos, fruit, vegetables, canned food, coffee, sugar, building material, clothes and shoes.

Wadi Khaled's market-place, Al Arida, is a favourite venue of Syrian families, with prices given in Syrian pounds which the merchants later change to dollars at the rate of 46 to a dollar.

"We sell here what Syrians can

only buy on the black market in their country. Everything they do not have they buy here," said Hammoud.

The Ghannam tribe, the largest and most influential, boasts that its standard of living is higher than that of many people in the Lebanese capital, Beirut.

Most of its members live in spacious cement houses with almost no furniture. They traditionally prefer sitting on the floor.

Khaled Sweid, who holds a degree in mathematics, estimated each family in the Ghannam tribe made an average of 100,000 Lebanese pounds (\$200) per month compared with the national minimum wage of 15,000 pounds (\$30) per month.

The residents of Wadi Khaled, all Sunni Muslims, have pleaded their case with all the governments that have ruled Lebanon since independence in 1943, but to no avail.

Christian politicians, who hold key posts in the government, have resisted naturalising 10,000 Muslims because it could upset the sectarian balance in the country.

"Our plight became the subject of bickering among politicians," said a Ghannam tribesman, one of a group squatting in a smoke-filled room and sharing a meal of lamb and rice.

"The solution for us lies with the Lebanese government. But now which one do we turn to?"

Lebanon, divided by civil war and constitutional crisis, is under the rule of two rival governments.

Except for a general security office at the entrance of the valley, signs of any Lebanese government are non-existent. The roads are bad, the two public school buildings decrepit and there are no working telephone lines.

The tribesmen observe their own laws. The punishment for killing is decided by the victim's parents. It could either be death or exile. A woman who commits adultery is immediately killed.

Although some of these drastic measures, such as killing an adulteress, are punishable under Lebanese law, the authorities have not been able to institute criminal proceedings because the government has had no control over the area.

Wadi Khaled bears no traces of the 13 years of civil war that have devastated the rest of Lebanon. But the area has witnessed its own feuds between the rival Atiq and Ghannam tribes.

"The last troubles we had here were in 1985. They started when someone slapped someone else's child. The two tribes fought with automatic rifles and machineguns killing one person and wounding five," said Khaled.

The clashes lasted a day and only ended with the mediation of Syrian soldiers and the residents of nearby villages.



Ladies at one of the several NECC handicraft centres

NECC fulfilling Palestinian health, family and community needs

By Najwa Najjar

Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — An international institution, though generous in its contributions to the lives of many Palestinian refugees throughout the Arab crescent area, remains yet unknown to some.

The Near East Council of Churches for Palestinian Refugees (NECC), part of the Cyprus-based Middle East Council of Churches and the Geneva-based World Council of Churches (WCC), has been offering its services for Palestinian refugees in Jordan, the West Bank, Gaza, the Galilee and Lebanon since 1951.

Organised as a regional ecumenical ministry incorporating the Greek Orthodox, Arab Evangelical, Episcopal, Assyrian Orthodox and Armenian Orthodox churches, the NECC has been working closely with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and other concerned societies within the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

The objective of such coordination according to NECC member in Jordan, Dr. Kamil Hamareh, "is to enable Palestinian refugees to develop socially, economically and culturally. Keeping in mind the rights of Palestinian people as well as justice and peace in the Holy Land."

To fulfil the objectives, the NECC in Jordan has concentrated its efforts in three areas: health, family services and community development. Each three year programme is drawn up after consultations with representatives of the host countries.

The 1987-88 programme, financed by the WCC and the Department of Service for Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) located in Cyprus, has a budget of \$268,500.

In order not to overlap or to

duplicate services already available to Palestinian refugees, the NECC decided on the health projects it will support in consultations with UNRWA's and non-governmental agencies that meet regularly on the Palestinian refugees situation in Jordan.

"We know from UNRWA what is needed and where to fill in the gaps," said Hamareh. The gaps are being filled, for example, by a mobile dental clinic which reaches approximately 85,000 Palestinian refugees living in the Jordan Valley, a dental clinic in Jabal Luweibdeh which helps around 25,000 people, and a panel of four specialists including a cardiologist, a dermatologist, a neurologist and an ophthalmologist at Baqa'a refugee camp, north of Amman.

UNRWA has offered the clinics and has chosen the specialists at Baqa'a. In addition, all health projects are under the supervision of both the NECC and UNRWA medical officers, who present a monthly report on the daily work at the centres.

Hamareh added that the NECC also supports the Palestine Hospital's society for the care of neurological patients where some Palestinian refugees are referred, and buys medicine, glasses, crutches and earphones to 40-50 needy patients monthly.

The second project of family services centres aims to train refugee women on embroidery, sewing and cutting, knitting and home economics. The centres started in Irbid, Huns and Gaza camps and graduated 72 students in 1987. In the same year two new centres were established in Talbieh and Suf camps.

The traditional structure of the camps does not allow women to enter fields other than those to which women are oriented "which means work that can be done at home," said the executive secretary of the NECC in Jordan, Salim Khalilieh.

Khalilieh said that the centres

are profit-making. Materials for embroidery are given to the centres free of charge, and the finished products, although sold at lower prices at the NECC office at Jabal Luweibdeh, have generated an income of JD 2,500 annually.

The final area, community development, covers education, rehabilitation and business loans and a new sewerage project for the refugee houses in Marka camp. Eighty five students get a \$40,000 annual grant for vocational training at YMCA, Wasfeh and other community colleges. "The students train in fields needed for the development of Kingdom," Khalilieh said.

In 1987, 92 students benefited from revolving loans (loans without interest) for university work. The total amount of the loan was JD 30,000. After students finish their education "they pay us back JD 10 monthly to enable us to give loans to others," said Hamareh.

Business loans up to JD 500 are also given to needy refugees to start a business, and housing loans without interest totalling JD 10-12,000 are given to refugees to expand their dwellings. "Up to 90 per cent of those who receive loans repay the NECC," said Hamareh.

The most recent project of sewerage connection was decided upon after NECC found 150 families whose salaries were between JD 0-10. "JD 160 is needed to make the sewerage connection for each family," he said. To help UNRWA, NECC offered JD 10,000 to connect the homes of the 150 families to the main sewerage pipeline.

NECC is also active in assisting official and unofficial delegations worldwide in obtaining visas to Jordan and appointments with concerned individuals. "We have changed a lot of visitors' opinions from being pro-Zionist to either neutral or pro-Arab," he said.

Scientists clash over genetic-flaw theory

By Paul Raeburn

NEW ORLEANS — A geneticist and his psychologist wife say they have linked mental disorders including mania, depression, hyperactivity, compulsive overeating and alcoholism to a single, inherited genetic flaw.

If they're right, the finding could revolutionise the treatment of mental illness. Difficult and expensive psychotherapy could be replaced with new drugs that would compensate for the genetic defect.

However, some geneticists say Dr. David Comings of the City of Hope National Medical Centre and his wife, Brenda, are guilty of a colossal mistake or careless misuse of science.

An angry debate over their work erupted recently at the annual meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics where David Comings, president of the society this year, used his presidential address to defend his findings.

He detailed a long list of behavioural disorders that he said occurred with unusually high frequency in the relatives of people with Tourette syndrome.

David Pauls of Yale University presented similar research that directly contradicted the Comings' findings. Pauls and his colleagues found no unusually high incidence of other disorders in families with Tourette syndrome.

After Pauls presented his data and responded to critical questions from David Comings, geneticists lingered to continue the discussion.

"I disagree with you completely," Dr. Arno Motulsky, professor of medicine and genetics at the University of Washington, told the Comings. "You make these grandiose schemes without evidence."

In Motulsky's view, that's a misuse of scientific data — making hypotheses that can't be supported by the facts.

"You revolutionise genetics if it's true — but I think it's very unlikely," he said. David Comings was visibly hurt by the criticism; Motulsky had been his teacher.

"I think you are making claims that harken back to the early days of genetics... I think you're doing genetics a disservice," Motulsky continued, referring to the early 20th century, when laziness, prostitution and criminality were said to be the result of bad genes.

The implication was that it was a good idea to sterilise such people, thereby ridding the population of undesirable traits, says Daniel J. Kevles, a historian at the California Institute of Technology and author of "In the Name of Eugenics: Genetics and the Uses of Human Heredity."

Making such generalisations has led to wildly erroneous and damaging misuse of science in the past and could easily do so again, Kevles said. He said he had read the Comings' report and couldn't comment on it directly.

Not everyone at the genetics meeting was critical of the Comings' work. Some praised the pair for their courage in proposing such a daring hypothesis.

Dr. Victor McKusick of Johns Hopkins University, a medical geneticist who has done extensive family studies with the Amish in Pennsylvania, said, "I lean toward the view that David Comings is closer to the truth. He's a perceptive person."

Many causes

Dr. David Raimon, director of medical genetics at the University of California, Los Angeles, noted that even if the Tourette gene is responsible for some cases of mania, hyperactivity and compulsive behaviour it is not likely to be the cause of all cases of those disorders.

"Many different causes can produce the same disease traits," and a single disorder — such as Tourette — can show itself in many ways, "so I'm not surprised" by the Comings findings, Raimon said.

Even the Comings' most ferocious critics accused them of no worse offense than shoddy science; there was no suggestion of deliberate distortion.

The Comingses based their conclusions on extensive studies of families of patients with Tourette syndrome, an inherited disorder marked by jerky movements, or tics, and uncontrollable vocal mannerisms including grunts, yelps, barks and sometimes involuntary outbursts of profanity.

The syndrome had been thought rare, occurring in at least one in 2,000 Americans, but David Comings said in an interview he believes it occurs in as many as in 200 — or about 1 million — Americans, usually becoming evident in the young, more often in boys than in girls.

In a 166-page report in the American Journal of Human Genetics, the Comingses said that attention-deficit disorder, with or without hyperactivity, is 10 times more common in Tourette families than in the general population. Obsessive-compulsive behaviour is five times as common. Conduct disorders, 17 times as common. Stuttering, five times. Dyslexia, six times. Panic attacks, 13 times. Multiple phobias, three times. Depression, 11 times. Mania and severe anxiety, 20 times as common.

At the genetics meeting, Comings added alcoholism, compulsive overeating and drug abuse. Other associated symptoms in-

clude auditory hallucinations, short temper, exhibition and easiness to anger.

All of these disorders are manifestations of the yet-to-be-discovered gene that causes Tourette syndrome, the couple asserted.

They explain the findings by suggesting that the gene is associated with a biochemical loss of inhibitions. "Many of the features of (Tourette syndrome) can be visualised as disinhibited, active, intrusive symptoms..." they wrote.

David and Brenda Comings say Pauls doesn't see the connections because, unlike them, he doesn't treat patients with Tourette syndrome. Pauls is a geneticist, not a psychologist.

Pauls says his studies included interviews with many relatives of Tourette syndrome patients, while many of the Comingses' studies were based on interviews with only patients and their parents.

"Our (finding) is based on direct interview information," Pauls said. "Theirs is based more on clinical impression."

In a lengthy letter in the American Journal of Human Genetics, Pauls and his Yale colleagues exhaustively criticised the Comingses' findings.

They said the weaknesses in their research "make it impossible to accept as valid any of the results presented..." that's strong language for an exchange in a scientific journal.

Symptoms vs. diagnosis

"One of our major criticisms of Comings is that he confuses symptoms with diagnosis," said Kenneth Kidd, one of the Yale researchers. "Tourette syndrome patients have symptoms of obsessive-compulsive disorder but do not have the disorder... different disorders can have symptoms in common."

Sue Levi, past president of the Tourette Syndrome Association in New York City, said the Comingses' findings have created confusion among patients. "Our organisation was contacted by people who have problems with substance abuse, problems with obesity, problems with anorexia who suddenly thought they might be carriers of the Tourette syndrome gene, Levi said.

The association is spending \$200,000 this year to enable six laboratories in the United States and Europe to search for the Tourette syndrome gene, or a genetic marker that will indicate its approximate location on human chromosomes.

Once such a marker is found, researchers will be able to directly test the Comingses' hypothesis. That could happen within the next few years or the next few months, Levi said.

Mickey's creator comes to light

By Aly Sujo

NEW YORK — Sixty years after the "birth" of Mickey Mouse, a forgotten Dutch animator is getting credit for his part in designing the beloved rodent.

Cartoon historians and auctioneers in a burgeoning market in "disneyana" say Ub Iwerks, Walt Disney's one-time partner and roommate, first drew and animated the character in 1928.

Three years later Iwerks sold his interest in the Disney company to Walt and his brother Roy for \$2,920. Today the Disney empire's assets are estimated at \$3.8 billion, according to company spokesman Chuck Champin.

The Disney company said that Iwerks, who died in 1971, may be "the unsung hero" of Mickey's history.

"Walt never professed to be a great artist," said Disney spokesman Howard Green. "He was a conceptual producer."

"Iwerks designed the physical appearance of the Mouse and almost singlehandedly animated the early films," Green told Reuters. "But Walt was responsible for its personality and defined it with his own voice."

The Disney company for years promoted the story that Disney had dreamed up the mouse character on a train trip and "Mickey had popped out of his mind onto a drawing pad," according to a Disney studio history published by the company.

But the railway genesis story is "an official myth," according to Christopher Finch's "The Art of Walt Disney." And John Canemaker, in his book "Treasures of Disney Animation," writes that "The earliest version of Mickey Mouse was designed by Ub Iwerks."

Although Disney supplied the Mouse's voice and engineered its extraordinary popularity, experts now say he could barely draw the character.

"Walt was unable to draw the Mickey Mouse we know now," said Joshua Arfur of Christie's auction house, an animation expert and Disney scholar. "Originally, Mickey was almost a stick figure. He (Disney) could draw that and he was able to draw the head. He could draw a rough image, but he was not that good."

Animators say Iwerks' contribution to American pop culture should be more widely acknowledged.

Credit due

"The studios should be gracious about giving credit where it's due," says Don Bluth, whose current animated film "The Land Before Time" has surpassed Disney's "Oliver and Co." at the box-office. "That credit should be the incentive for artists."

Bluth, who got his start at the Disney studios, told Reuters that Disney's staff were accustomed to working in quiet anonymity.

Ralph Bakshi, who made the x-rated "Fritz the cat" and the epic cartoon "Lord of the Rings," agrees that cartoon artists should receive credit where it's due.

"Ub Iwerks was a genius," Bakshi told Reuters. "But not being there at Mickey's birth, we'll never know what the truth was."

Both animators stressed that the cooperative nature of animation often made it hard to pin down a single creator, and added that Iwerks' post-Disney work had been commercially unsuccessful.

Dana Hawkes, an animation expert at Sotheby's auction house, says Disney collectors are becoming increasingly aware of the contributions made by Disney employees.

"We're now stressing the importance of each individual artist," said Hawkes. "Iwerks is now known as the artist who created the Mickey image. But Walt's imagination and his marketing genius are obvious."

"Walt suggested that the (Mouse's) teeth be removed," Hawkes told Reuters. "He looked too much like a rat."

Collectors of Disney animation cels — individual scenes hand-painted on celluloid which, combined with subsequent drawings, produced the impression of movement — include singer Michael Jackson and director Steven Spielberg.

A cel from a 1938 Mickey Mouse short called "Orphan's benefit" sold at Christie's last week for \$148,500.

Disney's chief archivist, David Smith, described Iwerks as Mickey's co-creator. He said the American icon came into being in 1928 during a difficult financial period in the fledgling animation company's history.

Joint creation

"Walt was unclear about what character to do next," said Smith. "They threw around a few ideas. Iwerks sat down and drew Mickey Mouse. Walt was standing right behind him. It was a joint creation."

Smith said the date of Mickey's 60th birthday celebration last month was established on the basis of the New York premiere of Mickey's "Steamboat Willie," whose opening credits read "A Walt Disney comic by Ub Iwerks."

But Iwerks' son, now a special effects technician in Hollywood, says the character's birthday should have been celebrated earlier this year.

"Ub created the image we all know," said David Iwerks. He added: "It was time for a new character and Ub designed five of them. They selected Mickey."

"The right (birth) day," said Iwerks, "would be the day Ub lifted his pen from the paper and said to Walt 'there's the Mouse.'"

Britain's brown rats overwhelm sewers

By Sandra Maler

LONDON — In the decaying Victorian sewers of British cities, this is the year of the rat.

An invading army of rats is running riot in the sewers, causing serious fears among health authorities.

The institution of environmental health officers warned in November that the growing population of rodents, particularly in the sewers, had become a major health risk.

"The increase in rats was caused partly by the mild winter last year," a spokesman for the ministry of agriculture said.

"Instead of dying in the countryside, the rats lived and formed nesting pairs in the spring. They are now moving from the fields to urban life in sewers, drains and houses to face the winter," he added.

Although there are about 500 species of rats, the two most common kinds are the brown or Norway rat and the black rat.

Most rats in Britain are the larger brown rats, also known as sewer rats, barn rats or wharf rats.

The brown rats, which are adept swimmers, can be as long as 25 cm, and of any colour although they are usually brown. Each female can have up to 150 young a year.

Besides destroying quantities of poultry, game and crops, rats transmit, directly or indirectly, more than 20 diseases, including the plague, which has three strains including bubonic.

The plague, carried by rat fleas, killed an estimated 25 million people in the 14th century when the black death — including the bubonic and pneumonic plague strains — swept through Europe.

Major health risk

The institution, representing local authorities' health officers, warned the rats had become a major health risk, which local authorities could not tackle for

lack of money.

A spokeswoman said the problem of a growing rat population was compounded by the poor state of most British cities' sewer systems, which date back to the Victorian era.

"A lot of sewers are rather old and causing problems. Rats are finding their way into canals and rivers where people swim. They are a major health risk because they carry virus and more severe disease," she said.

Local authorities receive money from the water boards to keep their sewers free of rodents but the institution said a lot more money was needed to renovate the sewers.

Large cities and ports like London, Bristol, Liverpool and Manchester have been particularly affected.

Crumbling sewers are ideal breeding grounds, where rats can hide, survive pest control and gain access to buildings above ground through cracks.

Modern sewers are equipped

with automated cleaning equipment, which flushes rats out, but the institution said local authorities could not afford them.

A cold spell in November caused an exodus of the rats from fields to the cities and homes but farmers have reported difficulty in keeping them under control in the countryside as well.

Experts are particularly concerned about Weil's disease, a parasite-borne infection carried by six out of 10 rats in their urine, which can contaminate water and kill humans.

Humans contract the disease through open skin wounds or mucus membranes coming into contact with the water. There have been several recent deaths when people with open wounds fell into or swam in canals or ponds infected by rats.

According to health authorities, the number of cases of Weil's disease has increased regularly over the past three years, with more than 100 cases last year.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

THE PUBLIC AUTHORITY FOR
APPLIED EDUCATION & TRAINING



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VACANCIES FOR FACULTY MEMBERS AND TRAINING MEMBERS at The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training for the Scholastic Year 1989/90

The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training has following vacancies for Faculty & Training members according to following qualifications stating as from 1-9-1989.

I. Faculty Members:

(Associate Professor - Assistant Professor - Lecturer - Teacher - Assistant Teacher).

II. Training Members:

(Trainer "A" - Trainer "B")

1. COLLEGE OF BASIC EDUCATION:

(Associate Professor - Assistant Professor).

1.1 Department of Social Studies:

(Associate Professor/Assistant Professor).

Social Development Regional Geography. At least 5 years of experience in the field at higher education.

1.2 Department of Science: (Assistant Professor).

Experimental Physics. At least 3 years of experience in the field at higher education.

1.3 Department of Education and Psychology: (Assistant Professor).

Methods of teaching Arabic Language, methods of teaching Islamic Education. At least, 3 years of experience in the field at higher education.

1.4 Data and Library Sciences: (Assistant Professor).

Bibliography, Data resources & Arabic/Foreign references, Computer application in libraries and Data Centres. Experience in the field at higher education.

1.5 Department of Educational Technics: (Assistant Professor).

Designing and production of Educational Materials (Educational Boards, Dolls relief.) Educational aids. At least 3 years of experience in the field.

1.6 Department of Artistic Education: (Assistant Professor).

Criticism, artistic taste, general artistic education. Experience in the field at higher education.

1.7 Department of Health Education and Sport: (Assistant Professor).

Sports injuries - First Aid (boys and girls),

Swimming and rescue (girls),

Handball (boys),

Measurement and Evaluation (boys),

Scientific interest in other sports,

Sport physiology (girls),

Amended physical education (boys).

At least 5 years of experience in the field at higher education.

1.8 Department of Home Economics: (Assistant Professor).

Methods of teaching home economics, sewing and tailoring, House keeping. At least 5 years of experience in the field at higher education.

1.9 Department of Internal Design: (Assistant Professor).

Internal design - at least 3 years of experience in the field at higher education.

1.10 Department of Music Education: (Associate Professor - Assistant Professor - Lecturer - Teacher).

Piano (girls) M.A. or Ph.D.

Rhythm (girls) M.S. or Ph.D.

Experience in the field at higher education.

2. COLLEGE OF BUSINESS STUDIES:

2.1 Department of Teletyping:

B.A. or M.A. in Administrative Sciences. (Teaching experience).

2.2 Computer Department: (Assistant Professor - Lecturer - Teacher - Assistant Teacher).

Computer Sciences and Data Systems, Data Principles, Operating Systems, Systems Analysis and Design,

Maths models in Computer, Office Machines.

Ph.D. or M.A. and teaching experience.

2.3 Accounting Department: (Assistant Professor - Lecturer - Teacher - Assistant Teacher).

Ph.D. or M.A. in Accounting. (Teaching experience).

2.4 English Language Department: (Assistant Professor - Lecturer - Teacher - Assistant Teacher).

Applied Linguistic or Teaching English Language and Methods of Teaching EFL or ESL or ESP or Curricula

and Methods of Development.

Ph.D. or M.A. and teaching experience.

2.5 Legal Department: (Assistant Professor - Lecturer - Teacher - Assistant Teacher).

Administrative Law, Commercial Law. Ph.D. or M.A. and teaching experience.

3. COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES:

3.1 Department of Food Science and Nutrition:

3.1.1 Catering Services: (Assistant Professor - Lecturer - Teacher).

M.A. in the field and experience in catering services in hospitals.

3.1.2 Food Microbiology:

B.Sc. Food Sciences or M.A. or Ph.D. and experience in Higher Education or Applied Education.

3.1.3 Dairy and Food Technology:

B.Sc. Food Sciences or M.A. or Ph.D. and experience in Higher Education or Applied Education.

3.2 Department of Nursing: (Assistant Professor - Lecturer).

Fundamentals of Nursing, Surgical and Internal Nursing, Mother and Babyhood case, Assistant Community

Health Nursing.

M.Sc. or Ph.D. in the field of specialization.

3.3 Department of Medical Records: (Assistant Professor - Lecturer - Teacher - Assistant Teacher).

Medical Records.

B.Sc., M.Sc., or Ph.D. in health knowledge or health statics and experience in the field of Medical Records.

3.4 Department of Environmental Health:

(Assistant Professor).

3.4.1 Epidemic Sciences and Preventive Medicine Practitioner. B.M. and Ph.D. in epidemics and preventive

medicine with not less than 2 years of teaching experience at higher education or applied field.

3.4.2 Environmental Health and Health Educator.

Ph.D. in the field of specialization. Obtaining B.M. or B.E. is an advantage. Two years teaching experience at higher education or applied field.

3.4.3 Clinical Pathology and Environment Analysis.

Ph.D. in the field of specialization with experience in medical, environment and preventive medicine analysis with at least 2 years of teaching experience at higher education or applied field.

3.5 Department of Dental Hygiene: (Assistant Professor).

3.5.1 Dental Medicine and Surgery.

Ph.D. in any of Dental medicine specializations.

3.5.2 Dental Medicine and Surgery or Dental Hygiene.

BDS or Dental Health Diploma plus Master or equivalent in the field of specialization and 3 years, at least, of experience.

3.6 Department of Medical Sciences:

(Lecturer - Teacher - Assistant Teacher).

3.6.1 Internal Medicine: BMS and Master of Internal Medicine.

3.6.2 Surgery: BMS and Master in General Surgery.

3.7 Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

(Assistant Professor - Teacher).

3.7.1 Pharmacology and Medical Plant Chemistry.

B.Ch. and Master or Ph.D. in drugs and drug chemistry.

3.7.2 Pharmaceutical Microbiology and Cell Biology.

B.C. and B.Ch. and Master or Ph.D. in Pharmacy Microbiology.

4. COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGICAL STUDIES:

4.1 Department of Electronics Engineering:

(Assistant Professor - Teacher).

Industrial Electronics, Communications.

4.2 Department of Electrical Engineering:

(Assistant Professor - Teacher).

Electrical Machines Engineering.

Master or Ph.D. and experience in the field of specialization in higher education.

SECOND: TRAINING MEMBERS:

1. Industrial Training Centre: (Trainer "A" - Trainer "B").

Maintenance and Electrical Writings: B.Sc. electrical wiring.

Radio and T.V.: B.Sc. Electronics.

Electrical Engineering: Electrical Power: B.Sc.

General Fitting: Filing: B.Sc.

Carpentry and Decoration: Decore and furniture - Carpentry: B.Sc.

Instrumentation: Electronics majoring Instruments: B.Sc.

Welding: Production Engineering Majoring Welding: B.Sc.

2. Telecommunication and Air Navigation Centre:

(Trainer "A" - Trainer "B").

Basic Materials: Electronics: B.Sc.

Maritime Studies: Navigation, Maritime Engineering - B.Sc.

Radio: Radar - B.Sc.

Exchanges and Telegraph: Exchanges - B.Sc.

3. Water and Electricity Training Centre:

(Trainer "A" - Trainer "B").

Mechanics: Mechanical Power Engineering: B.Sc. or Master

Electricity: Electrical Power Engineering: B.Sc. or Master.

College of Health Sciences: (Trainer "A" - Trainer "B").

Nursing:

— Nursing Principles (Bachelor degree in Nursing and experience in the field).

— Internal and Surgery Nursing: (Bachelor degree in Nursing and experience in the field).

— Mother and Babyhood case: (Bachelor degree in Nursing and experience in the field).

— Community Health: (Bachelor degree in Nursing and experience in the field).

Qualifications required: Bachelor degree and 10 years of experience 5 of which in training field at accredited University or Institute.

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2. 60 days of annual paid vacation and 10 days mid year vacation.

3. Some specialists will be provided by accommodation and furnishing allowances. (K.D. 200 - 300 only).

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Administrative Affairs Department

Al-Sharg, Dasman Complex, 3rd Floor

(or) to:

The Cultural Attache's Office

Embassy of the State of Kuwait, 4th Circle, Amman, Jordan.

with following documents:

— Photocopies of the Academic degrees and the official transcript.

— Photocopies of experience certificates.

— One personal photograph.

Documents submitted are photocopies and will not be returned.

Applications should be submitted not later than 15/1/1989.

Bush affirms firmness to trim budget deficit

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President-elect Bush, aiming to reassure financial markets of his determination to trim the federal budget deficit, promised Tuesday to give serious consideration to the proposals of a blue-ribbon budget panel.

Bush said he wanted to send a message to the financial markets that he will bring down the deficit, a message he said "will be enormously beneficial" to the markets as they grapple with fears of rising interest rates.

"I'll just do my level best to send signals to the international markets that we are serious, that we are projecting it (the deficit) downward firmly," Bush told a meeting of business leaders.

"I really believe that once that happened, the adverse psychology that has forced the interest rates up beyond where in my view they ought to be will turn around," he said.

Bush denied he was "less than enthralled" with the National Economic Commission (NEC), the bipartisan panel established by the Congress to draft a budget cutting plan.

"I am looking forward to hearing from the NEC and hearing their suggestions," he said. "I'm not looking for a battle with them and there won't be one."

Bush named former federal lawmakers Paul Laxalt and Thomas Ashley to the commission Tuesday. The appointments brought the NEC up to its full strength of 14 members.

Laxalt, 66, is a close friend and confidant of President Reagan and served two terms as a Republican senator from Nevada before deciding not to seek reelection in 1986. Before running for the Senate, he served as Nevada's governor.

Ashley, 65, is a former classmate of Bush's at Yale University and served 26 years in the House of Representatives before being defeated for re-election in 1980. NEC co-chairman Robert Strauss, a Democrat, has said higher taxes must be part of any deficit-cutting plan, and Drew Lewis, the panel's Republican co-chairman, has suggested cutting retirement benefits for the wealthy. Both proposals directly contradict Bush campaign promises to oppose higher taxes and avoid any cuts in pension benefits.

At his meeting with business leaders Bush renewed his pledge against higher taxes.

"There is going to be a battle ahead (but) I intend to hold the line on taxes," he said.

He has previously said the NEC should abide by the results of the November election, which he says were a mandate against new taxes.

OECD expects dollar to strengthen in coming months

Meanwhile, the OECD has predicted that the American dollar may strengthen in the short-term, particularly if the U.S. economy continues to expand at a fast pace.

The Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in a report that fast growth in the United States would cause interest rates there to rise still higher.

"It cannot be excluded that the dollar might strengthen again in the coming months," the report stated.

It cautioned, however, that the dollar's behaviour over the long-run "is likely to depend closely on

those fundamental factors which seem to dominate the market at the moment."

These factors include credible action by the U.S. government to cut its budget deficit.

The OECD economists said the U.S. deficit is likely to decline at a slower pace than has been projected by either Congress or the U.S. administration.

The economists see the deficit ebbing to only \$149 billion in fiscal year 1990 from \$155 billion in both 1988 and 1989. They said a further decline to \$110 billion is possible by 1993.

This would be \$10 billion below the Congressional Budget Office's estimate for the deficit in that year. The OECD explained that its projections took into account a faster growth rate in gross national product, and therefore more tax revenue, as well as higher interest rates.

The OECD noted there is a risk that markets may become concerned about the speed of progress in reducing the U.S. current account deficit. If so, financing the deficit could become more difficult "and the possible renewal of exchange-market turbulence would adversely affect confidence,"

with negative consequences for productive investment in export-oriented countries.

The OECD said the sharpness of the dollar's decline since October "underlines the fragility of market sentiment."

It said continued financing of the large U.S. external deficit may cause investors "to demand a progressively higher expected return on dollar assets relative to non-dollar assets over the medium-term."

The report also said interest rates in the United States could remain under strong upward pressure because of inflationary considerations and sluggishness in reducing the current account deficit.

OECD sees continuing high Turkish inflation

ISTANBUL (R) — High inflation will haunt Turkey into the 1990s despite a government austerity programme intended to bring it down, the OECD has said.

The inflation rate is seen at almost 75 per cent this year and might still be close to 50 per cent in 1990, a semi-annual report by the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), "think tank" of 24 industrial nations, said.

Inflation and interest rates are at their highest since 1980 and are

undermining middle class incomes, feeding labour unrest and threatening industry's ability to compete, it said.

"The restrictive policy package will show its effect on inflation only gradually over the next two years... there may be an upside risk in the inflation projections," the OECD said.

It said 1988 inflation would be 74.25 per cent, more than double a forecast made a year ago, followed by 61 per cent in 1989 and 48 per cent in 1990.

Unemployment was likely to rise to 17 per cent of the work

force by 1990 from 15.5 per cent in 1988 owing to population growth and the probable effect of austerity measures.

But exports, a key to an economic turnaround this decade, were expected to top \$10 billion in 1988, the OECD said.

Export growth would slow to 6.75 per cent in 1989 after 9.25 per cent growth in 1988 but rise to eight per cent in 1990.

The report said higher tourism income had helped the balance of payments. It predicted a steady current account deficit between \$700 and \$800 million in 1988,

1989 and 1990.

The OECD did not mention any concern about non-military foreign debt which stood at \$37.4 billion at the end of June after \$38.3 billion at the end of last year.

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said last week that lowering inflation would be easier now that Turkey had ready access to foreign currency and intended to collect taxes more efficiently.

But the OECD report said the budget deficit, expected to double its target to 4,098 million lira (\$2.2 billion) in 1988, would re-

main a chief cause of inflation.

"It appears unlikely that the public sector deficit can be reduced from the 1987 level of eight per cent of GNP to the 3.4 per cent targeted for 1988," the OECD said.

Real GNP growth would slow to five per cent in 1989 and 1990 after 6.6 per cent in 1988, the OECD forecast. The gross national product (GNP) grew at 7.4 per cent in 1987.

The report said expansion had been helped by a good harvest in 1988, high demand and high industrial output.

Peking uncovers thousands of corrupt officials

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese officials who deal with foreign companies are the target of a massive anti-corruption campaign to remove their fingers from the public till, the nation's leading newspaper has reported.

In all, 7,200 officials, including 56 described as high-ranking government officials, have been punished in the campaign, the People's Daily (Renmin Ribao) said.

Of these, 1,100 officials have had their cases referred to the nation's courts for criminal prosecution.

In one case, an engineer in the

Ministry of Railroads gave a foreign business classified documents about China's technological needs. In return, he was able to send his children to study in Japan.

In another case, 71 workers at an aluminum factory took 14 trips to the United States, France, Italy and Japan to research a single deal. In all, they spent 800,000 yuan (\$216,000) of government money on the trips.

"In reality it was pure jobbery, using public funds for a tourist trip," the paper said.

The paper said 30,000 inspectors were working in 3,000 offi-

ces nationwide to fight Chinese corruption in dealing with foreign companies.

In all, 1.7 million foreign trade contracts involving \$150 billion have been examined by ministry of supervision officials, the paper said.

Since the campaign began in June 1987, ministry officials have opened 15,600 cases, of which 7,500 have been solved, the paper said.

"In its work concerning foreign trade, China has some major weak links and loopholes," the People's Daily said. "There really do exist some corrupt officials

doing international trade. Politically and economically, they create a very bad impression."

Corruption is one of the major problems China faces as it attempts to open its economy to the West and render it more responsive to the market.

Western companies wishing to do business in China are often forced by corrupt officials to pay bribes or offer gifts just for the chance to do business with Beijing.

Internal corruption in China also has been blamed for causing price rises. Illegal companies, often set up by sons and daugh-

ters of powerful officials, buy goods at wholesale rates and sell them for a profit, increasing the goods' prices.

China's inflation currently hovers at around 20 to 30 per cent, the highest since the communist revolution in 1949.

It cited the case of a Hunan province tea company that sent 240 tons of tea to a West German company before it received payment for the goods.

The West Germans said they weren't satisfied with the quality of the tea and cut the price by 30 per cent, resulting in a loss of about \$45,000.

U.N. reports worsening crisis in L. America

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Soaring inflation, a sharp rise in the transfer of dollars to developed countries and minimal economic growth plunged much of Latin America into a crisis in 1988, a United Nations agency has said.

The U.N.'s Economic Commission for Latin America said in its annual report that the poor economic performance in 1988 left the region "even farther away from its goal of resuming a steady and stable economic growth."

The commission's executive secretary, Gert Rosenthal, pre-

sented the report at a news conference, said the economic crisis "is having a giant social cost" for the continent's struggling population.

The average inflation rate in the region jumped in 1988 to an unprecedented 472.8 per cent from 189 per cent a year earlier, the report said.

Nicaragua posted the highest individual rate with 7,200 per cent, followed by Peru, with 1,200 per cent, and Brazil, 800 per cent. Mexico succeeded in bringing inflation down to 60 per cent from 159 per cent a year ago,

while military-ruled Chile continued to contain it at about 10 per cent.

The national gross product in the area grew by only 0.7 per cent, down from 2.5 per cent in 1987, due mostly to poor economic performances in Brazil, Mexico and Argentina. Only five nations — Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Venezuela and Colombia — posted a satisfactory growth rate of more than five per cent, according to the commission.

Rosenthal, a Guatemalan, said Latin American countries transferred \$29 billion to the de-

veloped world in 1988, mostly to repay their foreign debt, which was reduced during the year from \$410 billion to \$401 billion.

Chile and Bolivia lead the countries reducing their debts, followed by Mexico and Brazil.

The increased transfer of resources abroad was coupled with a sharp decline of the capital flow into the region from \$13 billion in 1987 to \$4 billion this year, he said.

Rosenthal said expressions of concern about the debt crisis by U.S. president-elect George

Bush "indicated some progress" and "brings hope."

On the bright side, the report said the region's exports grew by 15 per cent, surpassing \$100 billion for the first time. The increase was due both to a larger volume of exports and better prices for the region's products, the commission said.

To help overcome the long-lasting economic crisis, the Latin American nations should increase their importing capacity and improve their economic management, the report said.

Spanish premier makes concessions

MADRID (AP) — The Socialist government Wednesday agreed to three of five union demands after a crippling general strike last week that closed down the country for 24 hours.

But the government reminded unions of their responsibility in maintaining Spain's economic expansion to provide the funds necessary to assure social benefits for all Spaniards.

Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez also said he would not call elections before the legal limit of June 1990, saying there should be an attempt to reach "reasonable agreements" before having recourse to the ballot box.

Gonzalez agreed to withdraw a controversial youth employment plan, increase wages of civil servants and pensioners hurt by unexpected inflation and raise the

lowest pensions to the legal minimum wage, the equivalent of \$394.

But Gonzalez rejected the union demand that the government increase unemployment insurance coverage from the current 30 per cent to 48 per cent of Spain's 2.7 million jobless, and for the government to acknowledge civil servants' rights to collectively bargain.

"We have to find a path to agreement on what we all seek — a healthy economy capable of generating resources and the ability to improve, day by day, the just distribution of wealth," Gonzalez said during an hour-long speech in parliament.

Nearly eight million of the 11.8 million employed Spaniards stayed home Dec. 14, bringing the country to a standstill in the strike called by the Socialist General Workers Union (UGT) and the Communist Workers Commissions (CC OO) to pressure for change in economic policies.

Spain's five per cent annual growth rate is the highest among the 12 members of the European Community, and the Socialists have managed to bring inflation down nine points since taking office in December 1982.

Corporate profits have quadrupled in two years, and the earnings of banks have tripled.

But unemployment in Spain stands at 18.7 per cent, the highest in Europe. This year's inflation rate, targeted at three per cent, has crept up to five per cent

for the first 11 months. The prime minister estimated it would cost 143 billion pesetas (\$1.2 billion) to restore the purchasing power of civil servants and pensioners due to the inflation rise.

Gonzalez said the chief objective of his policies and the goal of unions should be the creation of jobs, especially among youth, 40 per cent of whom have never worked.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday Dec. 21, 1988 Central Bank official rates				
Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	380.7	382.6
U.S. dollar	473.0	Dutch guilder	237.1	238.3
Pound Sterling	854.5	Swedish crown	77.2	77.6
Deutschemark	267.8	Italian lira (for 100)	36.3	36.5
Swiss franc	317.4	Belgian franc (for 10)	127.5	128.1
French franc	78.4			

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

	U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar
One Sterling	1.8035/45	Deutschemark
One U.S. dollar	1.1995/2010	Dutch guilders
	1.7727/37	Swiss francs
	2.0008/18	Belgian francs
	1.4965/75	French francs
	37.15/20	Italian lire
	6.0560/610	Japanese yen
	1306/1307	Swedish crowns
	124.60/70	Norwegian crowns
	6.1310/60	Danish crowns
	6.5680/730	U.S. dollars
	6.8560/610	
One ounce of gold	414.30/414.80	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Higher metal and oil prices drove up Australian shares for the third day running, despite a fall on Wall Street overnight. The All Ordinaries Index surged 17.4 points to 1,479.4.

TOKYO — Shares staged a sudden sharp rally near the close, boosted by futures expiration-linked buying. The Nikkei Index rose 130.25 points, or 0.44 per cent, to 29,698.19.

HONG KONG — Stocks finished stronger in thin trade marked by holiday languor. The strong finish was prompted by expectations that Thursday's government land auction would attract interest. The Hang Seng rose 25.12 to 2,633.09.

SINGAPORE — Widespread gains in the hotel sector were the only notable feature in an otherwise dull market, which closed on a mixed note. The Straits Times Industrial Index closed 0.34 of a point lower at 1,014.41.

BOMBAY — Share prices on the Bombay stock exchange drifted lower to close mixed on widespread profit-taking. Tata Steel gained 10 rupees to 1,055.

FRANKFURT — Profit-taking pressured share prices in thin dealings as the market consolidated Tuesday's new 1988 record highs. The 30-share Dax index closed at 1,321.03, 12.01 points or 0.9 per cent down from Tuesday's close.

ZURICH — Swiss share price ended little changed in very thin pre-Christmas trading. The All-Share Swiss Index was almost unchanged at 920.2 points.

PARIS — French share prices were off lows by midseason as modest buying interest in blue chips reversed the market's early trend. The 50-share price indicator was off 0.19 per cent at 1200 GMT.

LONDON — Shares were steady and close to their lows on the day in very quiet afternoon trading. By 1554 GMT, the FTSE 100 share index was down 5.1 points to 1,772.3 after 1,771.8.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks remained narrowly lower and quiet in morning trade. The Dow was about unchanged at 2166 and decliners held a small lead over gainers.

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A furnished apartment consists of 3 bedrooms, dining room and a sitting room, centrally-heated and conditioned. Very well organised.

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FOR AN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

A Jordanian company has a vacancy for a full time executive secretary. Good command of English is a must. Command of French is preferable. Minimum salary is JD 250 and according to qualifications; plus fringe benefits.

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The General Manager, P.O. Box 926871, Amman, Jordan

All applications will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

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De La Salle Church
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24th Dec. at 10 p.m.
Midnight Mass
25th Dec. at 5 p.m.
Christmas Mass

ANGLICAN

The Church of the Redeemer
First Circle
tel. 628543
24th Dec. at 11:30 p.m.
Midnight Mass
25th Dec. at 11:30 a.m.
Christmas Day Family Communion

AMMAN INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

Interdenominational
meets at the Baptist School
Shmeisani tel. 685326
25th Dec. at 6 p.m.
Christmas Service

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Evang. Luth. Good Shepherd
Church
7th Circle close to Pizza Hut
tel. 822605
25th Dec. at 6 p.m.
Christmas Candlelight Service

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Model PS6100. Excellent condition. Includes drums, after-touch, MIDI, etc... 690.- JD not negotiable.

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Location: Western Shmeisani, west of the Professional Association Complex, Abdul Halim Al Nimer Street, near Bilal Mosque, House No. 24.

Tel. 664256 - 604822, from 9 a.m. - 12 noon and 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

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Independent floor, 370 sq.ms., 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3 salons, dining and sitting room, large terrace, glassed veranda, maid room and garage.

Location: Sweifiah, 5th Circle.

Tel. 813055 between 8 a.m. to 12 and 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

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Two fully furnished apartments: Each with two bedrooms, and separate telephones. Building No. 57, Abu Hamid Al Ghazali Street, Amman (West), behind Tamar's Kindergarten. The ground floor has separate garage, garden, entrance.

For further information please call Mr. George Marar, Phone 661049.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Energy is at a high level but may not be waiting smoothly. The full moon will encourage us to undertake more than can be finished or change what should remain the same. Double-check your actions.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19)

Responsibilities and relationships may clash. Part of this centers around holiday plans which need to be reduced in size and scope.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20)

Appearance counts. Shop for yourself as well as others. Don't rely on holiday gifts to spruce up your wardrobe. Your sense of style is good.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

You want to rebel against established patterns and live the way you see fit. The possibility of adventure excites you. Fear may deter you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21)

You have organizational skills that can be to your advantage. Originality will help you bring your dreams to reality.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21)

Plans that only dreams cannot come to pass. Take action to figure out how you feel today. Disillusionment over loneliness and isolation can be counter-productive.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19)

Aspects today can fuel many activities. Plan a romantic rendezvous, be content to enjoy time with your family and friends.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20)

Business plans calling for capital investment should be postponed for a second look. Give yourself extra time to accomplish today's plans.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

The evening hours will be pleasant after a hectic day which leaves a lot of loose ends. Do some special shopping, and then head home to rest.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21)

You may have to postpone some of today's agenda until tomorrow. Your judgment may be off regarding budgets.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21)

Jealousy and manipulation are characteristics you should avoid. Keep feelings in check, and put on a smile.

day. Others may beat you to the punch. It is just one of those days when you can't get a word in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) Jealousy may aggravate a rivalry between friends. Entering into their affairs may put you on the spot.

SPEND TIME WITH CHILDREN INSTEAD. SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) It is so nice to fly through an easy day. You can be productive. Tackle those difficult or unenjoyable duties that have been shelved.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You sense a new emotional freedom as moods change and you are filled with positive energy. Family schedules need attention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Someone is getting tricky at work and playing games. Stay clear of immature behavior. Keep your kind and honest nature intact.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A romantic rendezvous may need to be postponed for a better time. Casual hours in the evening are conversational and productive.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Make an aggressive move toward romance, but use discretion. Feelings of love and hope abound. Be an active leader in your circle.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1988

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Avoid activities for which clarity and logic are necessary. Postpone decisions if they are only based on how you feel today. Disillusionment over loneliness and isolation can be counter-productive.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19)

Aspects today can fuel many activities. Plan a romantic rendezvous, be content to enjoy time with your family and friends.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20)

Business plans calling for capital investment should be postponed for a second look. Give yourself extra time to accomplish today's plans.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

The evening hours will be pleasant after a hectic day which leaves a lot of loose ends. Do some special shopping, and then head home to rest.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21)

You may have to postpone some of today's agenda until tomorrow. Your judgment may be off regarding budgets.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21)

Jealousy and manipulation are characteristics you should avoid. Keep feelings in check, and put on a smile.

Schneider picks up pace

COURMAYEUR (AP) — Vreni Schneider has captured the early spotlight in women's World Cup skiing with a winning pace reminiscent of the incredible streak posted by Italy's Alberto Tomba in the men's competition last year.

The 24-year-old from Elm, Switzerland, has scored straight wins in two World Cup slaloms and two giant slaloms and has added 25 points from a combined to raise her impressive total so far to 132 points overall.

In just seven races she already has earned more than half the points teammate Michela Figini needed to win the overall title last season.

Figini, a downhill and Super-G specialist, earned 244 points following 27 races and two combined last season.

"I am aware it will be difficult to continue this way. However, my form is excellent and good luck is on my side," said

Schneider. She edged Spain's Blanca Fernandez-Ochoa by only one hundredth of a second in Tuesday's race at this north Italian resort at the foot of Mt. Blanc, Europe's highest peak.

Schneider recorded the fastest first heat and survived a big second-run mistake to clock a winning aggregate of 1:37.53 minutes.

Fernandez-Ochoa, member of a Spanish family of successful skiers, was bitterly disappointed after narrowly missing her first slalom victory since 1987.

However, she said Schneider skied superbly and that her form was impressive.

An Olympic slalom and giant slalom champion in Calgary, Schneider was sidelined by a knee injury in the final decisive races last season and finished fifth overall.

Tuesday's win was the 17th World Cup triumph for

Olympic boxers turn pro

NEW YORK (R) — Olympic heavyweight champion Ray Mercer, billed as the man who will take Mike Tyson's title away, Tuesday led a quartet of Olympians into boxing's professional ranks.

The four — three gold and one silver medalist from the Seoul games — will make their professional debuts on Feb. 24 in Atlantic City on the undercard of the Iran Barkley-Roberto Duran World Boxing Council middleweight title bout, promoter Bob Arum announced at a news conference.

Americans Mercer, bantamweight gold medalist Kennedy McKinney and light-flyweight silver medalist Michael Carbajal were present for the announcement.

Kenyan welterweight Robert Wangila, the first black African to win Olympic gold, was in Nairobi being honored by his nation's president. Arum said.

Arum introduced Mercer, who demolished all four of his Olympic opponents, as "the man who will take Mike Tyson's title away."

"He's as big. He's as strong. He hits as hard, but he is a real man," Arum said, taunting Tyson, who has been spending most of his time in the company of rival promoter Don King.

"I went through the Olympics with all knockouts and I don't plan to stop there," Mercer said.

"I'm going to try to get as wealthy as Donald Trump over here," said Mercer, pointing at the property developer who owns both the New York Hotel where the news conference was taking place and the hotel where the fights will be staged.

"I don't know who's going to be heavyweight champion in about two years, but they need to know I'm coming for him," Mercer said.

McKinney said his goal was to bring excitement to the smaller divisions.

The smaller weight classes don't get the publicity and recognition as the heavyweights and middleweights. But, hey, I'm going to change all that," he promised.

Carbajal, who lost the gold medal in a controversial decision to Bulgaria's Ivaldo Hristov, was thrilled to be at the same table as Duran.

"Roberto Duran is my idol," he said. "Ever since I was young I've looked up to Roberto and now on my professional debut I'm on his undercard."

U.S. boxing coach Hank Johnson called the 1988 crop of Olympians as talented as those that came out of the 1976 games. That was no small compliment as the team in Montreal included Sugar Ray Leonard and Michael and Leon Spinks.

Opponents for the four Olympians were not announced.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Werbeniuk's downers are out

LONDON (R) — Bill Werbeniuk of Canada said on Tuesday his 15-year career as a professional snooker player looked at an end because of a ban on nerve-steadying beta blockers. Werbeniuk, who suffers from a nervous condition, said: "It looks as though I am about to be retired from the game. I have been taking inderal for 10 years and it's the only drug I can use." The WPBSA told him early this year he must find an alternative medication. But the player has now written to the association saying he has been unable to do this.

Team-mates earn separate golds

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Americans Burt Pippenger and Jim Harvey, who shared honours in Monday's 100 metres butterfly, raced different events Tuesday and both came out winners on the final day of the World Cup swimming meet here. Harvey captured the men's 100 metres freestyle in 50.41 seconds, and Pippenger won the 200 metres butterfly in 2:00.13 to score their doubles. The three-day meet in the natatorium crowned five double winners in all but no world records were broken.

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LONDON (AP) — Life for Bobby Robson would be a lot easier if the news media didn't exist and Diego Maradona was English.

As manager of England's national soccer team, Robson is the man in one of the sport's hot seats.

Everyone wants to beat England, the country that claims to have invented the game, and when Robson's team fails to beat teams like Saudi Arabia, sections of the media bay for his blood.

"If you could get rid of the press the job would twice as easy and twice as enjoyable," said 55-year-old Robson in an interview with the Associated Press.

"Some of the press are responsible and constructive and some aren't," Robson said. "I get used to the criticism. I am a bit dismayed by it but I don't let it get to me."

Robson has held the job for six years, and his record shows 35 victories, 16 defeats and 21 ties from 72 games in charge. But England has never come close to winning either of the two major

Robson: Alf wouldn't have stood for it

tournaments, the World Cup or European Championships, in that time.

Robson admits he is still looking for the missing ingredients that will turn England into a title-winning team.

"Every country that wins the World Cup or European Championship seems to have one or two outstanding individual players as well as good teamwork," Robson said.

"Argentina (World Cup winner 1986) had Diego Maradona, France (European Champion 1984) had Michel Platini, the Netherlands (European Champion 1988) had Marco Van Basten and Ruud Gullit."

"They have these players who can come up like crocodiles and make the difference between a very good team and a great team. That's something we haven't

got."

Robson said the English team had "the shape, the discipline, the temperament" to be a winner.

"But we really need one or two really outstanding individual players," he said. "Maradona had it. (Dutchman Johann) Cruyff had it. That is what we are searching for in English football. We need to find another George Best and hope this time that he's English and not Irish."

A member of England's national team 20 times between 1958-62, Robson was just finishing his playing career when Sir Alf Ramsey led England to victory in the 1966 World Cup.

"That was wonderful for the country and for Alf," Robson said. "I envy him but I'm not jealous. It was terrific and it has

been my job to try and repeat that."

But he said the job has changed dramatically since Ramsey was fired in 1974.

"Alf wouldn't know the job" now," Robson said. "There are a lot of things that go on now, particularly with the media, that he wouldn't put up with."

An example, he said, was an incident that followed his return from a 1-1 tie in Saudi Arabia — a performance that was savaged by most of the media.

As well as the time he spends with the players around match time, Robson spends much of his working week going to club games, occasionally travelling abroad to scout the opposition and shaking hands with visiting delegations.

While Robson is able to maintain his links with overseas soccer, the same cannot be said of his players.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ973 ♠AQ85 ♣AQ65 ♦Void
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ973 ♠AQ85 ♣AQ65 ♦Void
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ973 ♠AQ85 ♣AQ65 ♦Void
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠954 ♠AJ74 ♣AQ1076 ♦8
Partner opens the bidding with one trump. What do you respond?
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠954 ♠AJ74 ♣AQ1076 ♦8
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.7—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.8—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.9—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.10—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.11—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.12—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.13—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.14—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.15—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.16—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.17—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.18—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.19—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.20—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.21—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.22—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.23—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.24—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.25—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.26—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.27—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.28—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.29—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.30—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.31—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.32—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.33—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.34—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.35—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.36—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.37—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.38—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.39—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.40—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.41—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.42—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.43—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.44—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.45—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.46—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.47—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.48—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.49—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.50—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.51—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.52—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.53—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.54—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.55—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.56—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.57—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.58—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.59—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.60—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.61—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.62—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.63—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.64—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.65—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.66—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.67—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.68—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.69—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.70—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.71—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.72—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.73—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ93 ♠85 ♣AQ43 ♦72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?<



Supporters of President-elect Ranasinghe Premadasa dance in the streets of Colombo in front of a poster of their new leader.

Bhutto: Pakistan does not have nuclear arms, does not plan one

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto says Pakistan doesn't have a nuclear weapon, and does not intend to make one.

"There is not a nuclear device," Bhutto said in an interview with the Associated Press. And although a threat from India could result in pressure to respond, she said, "Pakistan has no intention of making a nuclear device, and that's what I can tell you categorically."

Pakistan's rumoured nuclear intentions and India's known nuclear capability long have blocked improved relations between the countries. Many foreign specialists have believed Pakistan is working to create a nuclear weapon, but Pakistan has denied such work for years.

Bhutto added in the interview that Pakistan won't unilaterally sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which would open to inspection its nuclear facilities. The best-known of these is the Kahuta uranium enrichment plant, about 30 kilometres east of the capital.

But she said "we have certain talks going on with India whereby an agreement can be brought up on non-attack on each other's nuclear facilities."



Benazir Bhutto

Bhutto also hinted that Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who will attend a three-day summit in Islamabad this month of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, will be asked to co-sign a bilateral ban on nuclear testing. Bhutto's predecessor, Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, also had expressed interest in such an agreement.

"I think we're looking towards, in general, an expression worldwide of a yearning for a rest... Pakistan and India are both a part of the world," Bhutto said. "The people of both our countries

would prefer to have an honourable peace."

Bhutto spoke with an Associated Press reporter in her automobile on a trip from Islamabad to her residence in nearby Rawalpindi.

"There is a lot of good will for Pakistan," said the 35-year-old prime minister, the first woman to head a modern-day Islamic state. "It's a democratic country now, and expectations are many."

The challenge today, says Bhutto, is to straighten Pakistan's back and raise its head as it climbs out of a decade of military rule and edges slowly towards a stable democracy.

Bhutto attributed the victory of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in last month's elections to determination, strength and courage. She said she will use the same qualities to move Pakistan's fragile democracy onto a surer footing, to negotiate a reduction in tensions with India, to cleanse government institutions of corruption and to instill in foreign investors her optimism about Pakistan.

Bhutto talked about forging an image for Pakistan as a self-assured participant in regional policies, particularly in relations with India.

Bandaranaike cries foul, challenges election results

COLOMBO (R) — Sirimao Bandaranaike, defeated candidate in Monday's Sri Lankan presidential election, said Wednesday she would petition the supreme court to have the poll declared null and void.

She told a crowded news conference here that "state power and wrongful means" had been used to deprive the majority of Sri Lankans of their right to vote.

"My lawyers have advised me that there is adequate evidence and information to have the election of the UNP candidate (Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa of the United National Party) declared null and void," she said.

Bandaranaike, 72, who was prime minister from 1960-65 and 1970-77 before Sri Lanka changed to an executive presidential system, told reporters: "Please do not think I am saying these things because I have lost the election. I have lost elections several times before — fair elections. This is the first time I have made a complaint."

As evidence of what she alleged was government-sponsored cheating, she waved one of seven books of ballot papers she said her supporters had recovered from a police station to which ballot boxes had illegally been taken.

She said her party had evidence that 1.4 million more ballot papers had been printed than were required for the election.

"I wish to firmly state that the Sri Lankan Freedom Party and the Democratic People's Alliance (which she led in the contest) do not accept the results of this presidential election," she said.

"We do not accept it because there are glaring cases of malpractices... if there was a fair election I am definite that I would have been elected."

Bandaranaike said she planned to petition the supreme court in about a month, and asked anyone who had evidence of malpractice

to send them to her promptly.

Asked if she was prepared to risk possible government reprisals including imprisonment, she replied: "Yes, I am prepared to risk it."

Bandaranaike, whose husband was assassinated 30 years ago and who escaped a bomb attack on her final pre-election rally, added: "I have taken a lot of risks in my life."

Bandaranaike, asked whether she would bring her supporters to the streets in protest, did not rule out the possibility but said her party had not yet finalised its strategy.

But she said people around the country were angry and reluctant to accept the result. "This is not democracy," she said.

Despite Bandaranaike's claim, Sri Lanka has seen less post-election violence than in the past. No serious election-related incidents have been reported since Tuesday.

Hours before the news conference, a 10-member observer group from four South Asian nations released its preliminary

findings on Monday's poll.

It referred to "many incidents of violence, threats and other acts of coercion directed against election officials and voters" and said "the problem of general intimidation during the election campaign was unprecedented."

The group's final report is expected in two weeks.

But although extremist violence blamed on the illegal left-wing People's Liberation Front helped reduce voter turnout to 55.4 per cent — lower than usual in Sri Lankan elections — the interim report said the electoral process, while flawed, "should be viewed positively."

Bandaranaike, who had not read the report before meeting reporters, told them the violence should be blamed not only on the front and Tamil separatists, but also on Premadasa's UNP.

Referring to her pre-election prediction of insurrection if she lost, he added: "We have no objection to her going to court but her statement about an uprising is an attempt to usurp the sovereignty of the people."

COLUMN

Chef makes largest gingerbread house

PINE MOUNTAIN, Georgia (AP) — Hansel and Gretel beware: Peter Brochu's gingerbread house may be the world's largest. Brochu, executive chef at the Callaway Gardens Inn, had the help of seven chefs, 13 cooks and the entire maintenance department of the west Georgia resort to build the gingerbread house — complete with lights, chimney, picket fence lined with poinsettias and icicles hanging from the roof. There are 204 kilograms of candies and cookies in the decorations. Modelled after the structure that almost led to the downfall of Hansel and Gretel in the fairy tale, the house is 4.3 metres long, 2 metres high and 1.2 metres wide.

Christ 'disciple' breaks into airport

TOKYO (AP) — More than a dozen flights were delayed at Osaka international airport Sunday afternoon when a man broke

into a control room and unplugged hundreds of fuses from the air traffic control system, police said Monday. The incident cut communications between air traffic controllers and flights using the airport for about 40 minutes, said a local police official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Seventeen flights were delayed for up to half an hour. Police arrested a 26-year-old man and said he may have entered the closely guarded communications control centre when employees went out for lunch. Police using a duplicate key entered and overpowered the man, who shouted that he was acting "at the guidance of Jesus Christ," the official said.

Kenya (AP) — A five-year-old boy, bringing peace to a long-running conflict, was named as the official diplomatic resolution of the conflict.

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Uno: No progress in Kurile dispute

TOKYO (R) — Japan said Wednesday there had been no basic progress in talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on a key territorial dispute but welcomed Moscow's greater willingness to at least discuss the problem.

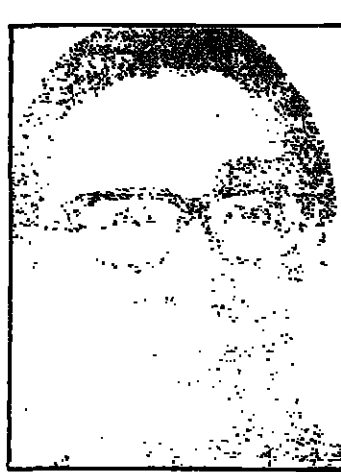
Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno told reporters it was meaningful that a joint communique, issued at the end of Shevardnadze's three-day visit, called for further discussion on the islands occupied by Soviet troops in 1945.

The two sides agreed to set up a committee to discuss the question, which has soured Sino-Japan relations since the end of the war and prevented the signing of a peace treaty.

The communique also mentioned the possibility of a visit to Tokyo by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, which could take place next year.

"This joint communique is meaningful for further talks because we were able to put down clearly an expression on the islands," Uno said.

"We are beginning a very complicated, very difficult but very crucial and necessary task," Shevardnadze told reporters before leaving Tokyo for Manila at the



Sosuke Uno

end of three days of talks.

The Soviet Union previously refused to discuss the issue.

The communique said the two sides had discussed "their respective understandings on the historical and political aspects relating to the elimination of the difficulties existing in their bilateral relations."

"By difficulties, we of course mean the northern territories," Uno said, referring to the Japanese name for the disputed islands at the end of the Kurile chain.

Uno said the Soviet position on the islands was unchanged.

"They were unbending as before," he said. "Of course, we must look for a compromise."

"The Soviet position was tough, but our side was equally tough," said a Foreign Ministry official who participated in the talks. "But it was a balanced discussion where we talked historical, rather than abstract aspects."

Soviet cosmonauts glide to success

MOSCOW (AP) — Space endurance record-holders Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov guided their Soyuz TM-6 space capsule to a safe landing in Soviet central Asia despite a computer malfunction that extended their year-old mission by three hours Wednesday.

Titov, Manarov and French cosmonaut Jean-Loup Chretien touched down in the Kazakhstan republic at 12:57 p.m. Moscow time (09:57 GMT), a little more than three hours after they were scheduled to land.

"Immediate medical check-ups showed the cosmonauts are feeling well," official Radio Moscow said.

The landing ended mankind's longest space flight. Titov and Manarov, who had been at the Mir orbiting space complex, marked one year in orbit Tuesday afternoon.

Radio Moscow said Titov and Manarov were undergoing tests to determine how well they had endured their lengthy flight.

Soviet officials have said the ability of cosmonauts to endure long periods in space is a key to a future manned flight to Mars.

Titov and Manarov last December replaced a space station crew that included Yuri Romanenko, whose record of 326 days in space is the one they broke.

The official TASS news agency said the Soyuz capsule returned to Earth about 180 kilometres southeast of the city of Dzhezkazgan. That city is located about 100 kilometres from the Soviet space launch complex at Baikonur.

The craft was to land at about 9:50 a.m. Moscow time (06:50 GMT), but a computer malfunction delayed it.

Soviet television reported that "automated telemetry showed an overload in the computing complex" on board the Soyuz craft, but provided no details of the problem.

However, TASS said contingency plans for such a failure were built into the mission, and the cosmonauts were prepared for it.

It said mission control was working on several options to bring the cosmonauts back down to Earth, including an effort to use the computer system that overloaded which called for a landing at about 1 p.m. Moscow time (10:00 GMT). It apparently was that option that brought the cosmonauts back.

Cosmonauts also could have switched to manual control, the report said.

There was no word on the exact function of the computer, or the nature of the overload.

The return of the previous Soviet space craft, Soyuz TM-5, from the Mir complex was delayed because of equipment and human error in early September.

China to halt aid to Kampuchean forces after Vietnamese withdrawal

PEKING (AP) — China has announced that it would stop aiding the Khmer Rouge and other Kampuchean resistance forces as soon as Vietnam withdraws its troops from Kampuchea.

The statement, which appeared in the People's Daily (Renmin Ribao), was a further indication that Peking's policy toward Vietnam's role in Kampuchea has softened.

China's premier, Li Peng, made the statement in a news conference with journalists from China and India. The Indian journalists are in China covering Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit. He is the first Indian leader to visit China in 34 years.

According to the report, Li said that "if Vietnam withdraws from Kampuchea, all parties, in-

cluding China, should stop aiding elements in Kampuchea."

"In order to calm the fears of the international community, as Vietnam withdraws, we will decrease our military assistance to the resistance forces," Li said.

Vietnam sent its army into Kampuchea in December 1978 and ousted the Khmer Rouge, who had ruled the country from 1975. More than a million people are believed to have died during their bloody reign.

China, the capitalist countries of South East Asia and the West support a three-party rebel coalition comprised of forces loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Khmer Rouge and Son Sann, a Western-leaning politician.

Vietnam has said it will pull out all of its troops from Kampuchea

by 1990 and will turn the war over to the government of Heng Samrin, who was installed in Phnom Penh in 1979 by the Vietnamese.

But the government forces are weak and there are widespread fears that the Khmer Rouge will return to power after Hanoi removes its troops.

On Monday, Vietnam announced another troop withdrawal. The troops were among 50,000 that Vietnam says are being sent home this year in its seventh annual partial pullout.

After the current withdrawal, Vietnam says it will still have 50,000 troops in Kampuchea.

China's position on Vietnam's role in Kampuchea has been evolving over the last few months as its relationship with Vietnam's main backer, the Soviet Union, improves.

\$80 to \$1,000 per 'game' — take a pick for killing in Brazil

By Roger Atwood
Reuters

FORTALEZA, Brazil — Business is good for Brazil's contract gunmen.

In 1987 powerful landowners paid them to kill scores of peasants and other people in land disputes across the Brazilian countryside, a recent Catholic Church report said.

But the violence hasn't stopped there. Pistol-packing killers in rural Brazil will settle scores, average one's honour or evict undesirables — for a price as low as \$80.

Barring a handful of well-publicised cases involving the most notorious of them, most contract gunmen have gone unpunished and many are known to get cooperation from corrupt police.

Among their most common clients are powerful landowners who hire them to kill peasants, rival landholders or other people whom the landowners perceive as threats to their interests, authorities say.

Police say contract gunmen are most active in the poor northeast, where the gap between Brazil's landed and the landless is widest.

"Violence by contract gunmen is rooted in the landlessness of peasants. They are the

most common victims and those who are the most afraid to speak out," said Maria Elena Pereira, a peasant union organiser.

Yet farmworkers are hardly the only victims.

Police annals in this northeastern city are full of cases of businessmen hiring gunmen to eliminate competitors and husbands paying them to kill their adulterous wives.

There are even cases of brothers hiring gunmen to kill their siblings so as to take sole possession of inheritances.

"Sometimes I think I've come across the most disgusting case of all, and then we hear about some new killing even worse," Quintino Farias, head of the Ceara State Police Special Services division, told Reuters during a recent visit to the state capital, Fortaleza.

Farias helped track down and arrest one of Brazil's most notorious gunmen, Ildefonso Maia Cunha, known to nearly everyone in this city of 1.3 million people by his nickname, Mainha.

Mainha once boasted in a television interview from his jail cell that he had killed 800 people in 10 years, though police doubt the claim and put the number closer to 60.

They say he charged any-

where from \$500 to over \$1,000 per killing, depending on the victim and how easy it would be to eliminate him. His satisfied clients often gave him expensive cars and other gifts in recompense, police say.

Other gunmen, lacking Mainha's reputation for brutal efficiency, have been known to charge as little as \$80 per job.

Mainha operated for years in the impoverished Jaguaribe River valley in Ceara, about 320 kilometres south of Fortaleza and a centre for contract killing.

In a rare direct hit against the killing industry, police arrested Mainha near Fortaleza in August and he was later sentenced to nine years prison for the contract killing of businessman Ira Gomes de Brito.

He awaits trial for at least nine other murders in two states, but he has so far refused to name any of his patrons.

His jobs are alleged to have included the killing of small landholder Orismildo Ferreira at the behest of a rival, more powerful landowner.

After the killing, the landowner bought Ferreira's land from his widow at a fraction of its real value, said a lawyer in the case who asked not to be identified.

'Press under attack from own defenders'

LONDON (Agencies) — Press freedom came under attack in 1988 from some of its staunchest defenders — democratic countries such as the United States, Britain, India and Australia, the International Press Institute (IPI) reports.

The plight of the media remained bleak under repressive governments, but the trend in democracies was the year's most worrisome development, the institute says in its annual "World Press Freedom Review."

"One of the saddest truths facing the media around the world today is the growing trend toward government interference in democratic countries," Peter Galliner, the institute's director, wrote in the report's introduction.

"The hopes and encouragement of nations which are on their way towards more freedom and who rely on an example from countries with a democratic system, an open society and freedom, must not be crushed by governments in the free world," he said.

The 32-page report cited "significant improvements" in press freedom in Taiwan and South Korea, and setbacks in Chile, Colombia, Malaysia and other states where journalism continues to be a sometimes dangerous and often difficult profession.

"The hopes and encouragement of nations which are on their way towards more freedom and who rely on an example from countries with a democratic system, must not be crushed by governments in the free world, who should be guardians of press freedom," the bulletin said.

"The Soviet Union has made

heartening strides towards a more open press. But is the process truly irreversible?" the IPI asked, suggesting that the West could help Soviet journalists by protecting its own freedoms.

The IPI said a chain of legal actions and legislation by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government had eroded press freedom in an "extraordinary year for the British media."

It condemned London's unsuccessful attempts to ban publication in Australia of "Spycatcher," the memoirs of former secret service official Peter Wright, and its ill-fated bid to outlaw publication of extracts in British newspapers.

The United States and Canada were criticised for inserting their recent free trade agreement a clause stipulating that any

Canadian journalist wishing to work across the border for a U.S. employer must have a college degree and three years experience.

"This rule has been in American immigration regulations for the past 20 years. But this was the first time that it had been enshrined in an international accord," IPI said.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India was forced at the last minute to withdraw legislation that would have shifted the duty of proving defamation from plaintiffs to journalists, the report said.

An Australian court ordered a journalist to reveal his sources, and South Africa's press had an "appalling year," marked by three-month publication bans for two newspapers and a one-month ban on another, it said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Rocard sets up anti-racism team

PARIS (R) — Prime Minister Michel Rocard set up a special group Tuesday to combat racist violence after a bomb attack on an immigrant hostel in the south of France killed one person and injured 12. Rocard's office said representatives of the Foreign, Defence, Justice and Interior Ministries, as well as his own delegate, would form the new panel. The group met for the first time Tuesday and would gather regularly to coordinate government action, it said. Explosions tore through the Sonacotra hostel at Cagnes-sur-Mer early Monday, killing a 48-year-old Romanian exile identified by police as George Iordachescu. President Francois Mitterrand condemned the attack and said racist violence would be fought "with the greatest firmness."

First black anchorman dies at 49

WASHINGTON (AP) — Max Robinson, the United States' first black anchorman on national network television news, died Tuesday at 49. Robinson died at 9:30 a.m. (14:30 GMT) at Howard University hospital from complications resulting from AIDS, according to hospital spokeswoman Tonya Swanson. It had been three years since Robinson worked regularly in television. In 1969, he had become the first black to anchor newscasts on a major Washington station, on station WTOP, now WUSA. In 1978, he began co-anchoring the ABC evening news with Peter Jennings and Frank Reynolds. Over the past couple of years, Robinson had been ill, wasting away and reduced to walking with a cane, while refusing to reveal what his illness was.

Argentine chief quits after revolt

BUENOS AIRES (R) — The commander of the Argentine army, General Jose Dante Cardil, resigned Tuesday two weeks after about 500 soldiers staged a revolt in which they demanded the chief of staff's resignation. "Generals Cardil, (Miguel) Abbatte and (Enrique) Bianchi today ratified their request to be passed into retirement," said a brief communique from the Army High Command. Abbatte and Bianchi are the two most senior generals after Cardil. The government did not immediately announce whether it would accept the resignation of Cardil, army chief of staff since April, 1987.

Angola to become dumping ground

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Angola, faced with an estimated \$800-million cost of shipping home thousands of Cuban troops, is negotiating a contract to import and process millions of tons of Western industrial waste, a businessman involved in the deal said Tuesday. Arnold Andreas Kuenzler, of Basel, Switzerland, declined in a telephone interview to elaborate on the accord, but confirmed he would meet with Angolan officials to discuss details of a deal said to be worth \$2 billion. European Parliament delegate Francois Roelants du Vivier said Monday in a Belgian newspaper interview the Angolan government had signed a preliminary accord with a Swiss businessman for treatment of toxic waste on the coast of the southern African nation and storage of residues in a 50,000 square kilometre semi-desert, some 200 kilometres north of the coastal town of Namibe in southern Angola.

Trial finds Cain not guilty

VENICE (R) — Cain, history's first recorded killer, was found not guilty of premeditated murder Sunday at a mock trial by biblical scholars, historians, magistrates and criminologists. The nine-member jury voted 5-4 in favour of Cain, who killed his brother Abel after their parents, Adam and Eve, were banished from the Garden of Eden for eating forbidden fruit. The jury's verdict said Cain had acted out of "inevitable human emotion, dictated by other reasons of a social nature." The Book of Genesis in the Old Testament says Cain, a farmer, killed Abel because he was jealous that God had preferred the offering made by Abel, a shepherd. The prosecution said Cain, who after the killing told God he was not his brother's keeper, had planned his crime because of his intense jealousy.